The Middlebury Campus

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Planning committee issues draft

By Liz Campbell
Staff Writer

The Planning Steering Committee convened during the holidays to make final revisions to the planning process report, officially releasing its Strategic Plan Draft on Jan. 4. Relying on reports and recommendations from 15 task forces and committees, surveys of several groups in the Middlebury extended community, meetings with groups and students on campus and more than 80 hours of its own meetings throughout the summer and fall, the Committee has completed a comprehensive report with specific recommendations for the future of the College.

The framework for a new strategic plan, the first since 1992, was established shortly after Ronald D. Liebowitz became president of the College on July 1, 2004, and has aimed to reevaluate the educational mission, identity and aspirations of the College.

"Perhaps the major point is that the College is at a stage in its history where we need to emphasize what we have called our 'human dimension,'" said Dean of Planning John Emerson. "Our most precious resources are our superb students, distinguished faculty, committed staff members and loyal and supportive alumni and parents. Together, these human beings create and support a rich array of educational opportunities that make the Middlebury experience unique and quite wonderful."

In order to focus to a greater extent on the human dimension of the institution's life, the

See Strategic Planning, page 4

Town hall tackles alcohol issue

By Jason F. Siegel
News Editor

In a sparsely attended meeting in John McCardell Jr. Bicentennial Hall, President of Middlebury College Ronald D. Liebowitz hosted a town hall meeting to discuss alcohol and social life on and off campus and its relation to federal laws, the first of two scheduled for J-Term.

The meeting was fairly informal, with Liebowitz dressed in a relaxed manner, wearing a button-down shirt and denims, and declining to use the provided microphone. In a fairly unusual procedure, for most of the meeting Liebowitz asked for candid opinions of the students, the vast majority of whom were under 21 but quite willing to comment frankly on their drinking habits, instead of community members asking questions of the president.

"One of the reasons for this meeting is for me and my administrative colleagues to address the perception of social life on campus," said Liebowitz at the beginning of the meeting. "The other reason is to address related safety issues."

One of the first points made was that the new guest list policy has profoundly altered the atmosphere of the social houses, a cornerstone of residential life on campus, for instead of being open to all, the houses must restrict admission to the parties. Ioana Literat '09 followed that point, stating that there are many people admitted to parties not on the guest list based on their gender, especially women, and even within that group, based on how they are dressed.

Several students made the point that students on guest lists tend to plan to go to the same parties every week, which creates cliques and restricts social life on campus, and also encourages people to do all their drinking at the social house parties. "It doesn't change how people drink. It changes how people get around [the law]," said Eli Menaker '08. Indeed, a common theme of the meeting was that when 18-year-olds are not allowed to drink in the open, they will often drink in private, where there is no surveillance or control.

Ioana Literat

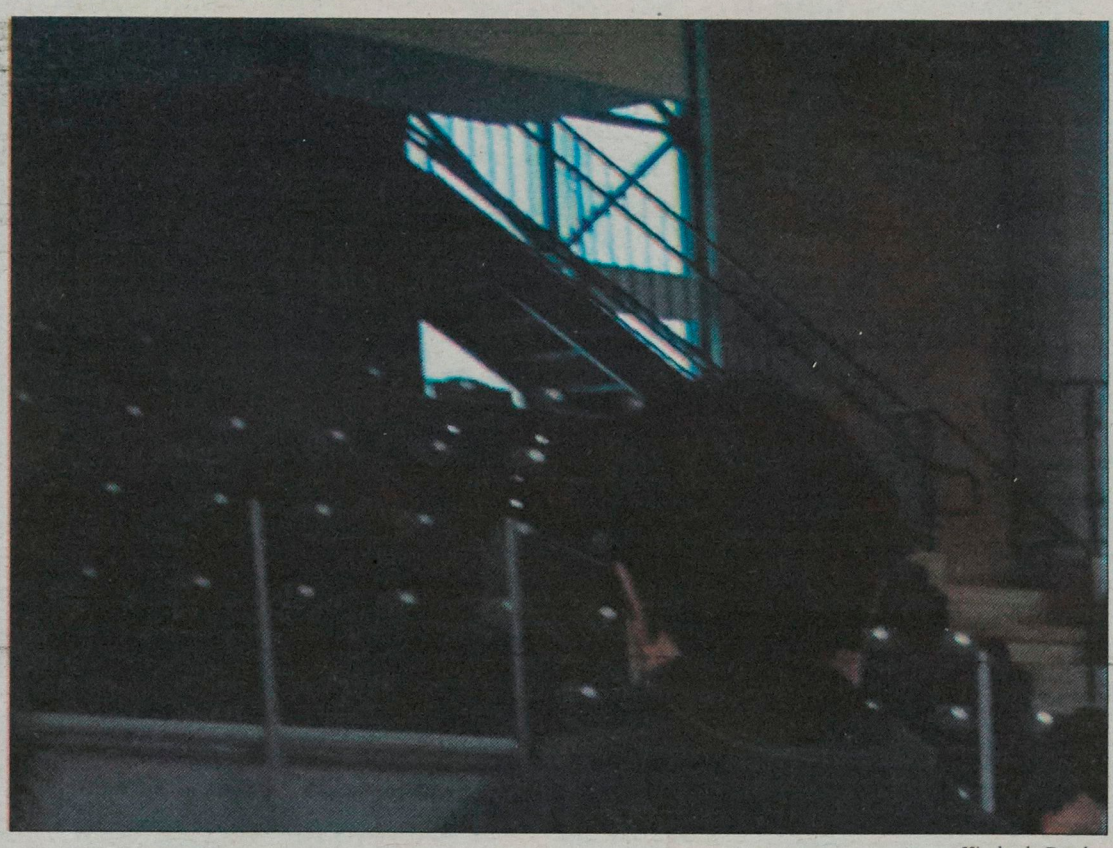
Students gathered on Tuesday evening to participate in a discussion with President Liebowitz about the role alcohol plays in the perception of Middlebury's social life.

Others affirmed that social houses were a key part of College social life because they are basically the only organized options consistently available on the weekend that include alcohol.

Liebowitz explained that the interpretation of the liquor laws is not new, but that

See President, page 4

Slipping and Sliding



Kimberly Bowker

Taking to the ice on Monday, Rebecca Cushing '06 led a bevy of beginning ice skaters in one of this week's Winter Term Workshops. For full coverage of workshops on campus, see page 11.

Faculty approves Am. Lit. merger

By Caroline S. Stauffer
Editor in Chief

The Middlebury College Faculty voted for the creation of a new department and major in English and American Literatures and a new program in American Studies during its December meeting on the afternoon of Monday, Dec. 12. The final count in paper ballots for the proposal sponsored by the Educational Affairs Committee (EAC) was 101 votes in favor, 41 against and six abstentions. A simple majority was required for the proposal to pass.

The vote followed 90 minutes of discussion during the meeting in John McCardell Jr. Bicentennial Hall, but the restructuring of the American Literature major has drawn attention at the College since the proposal was introduced in October and engendered heated debate from both sides since the issue was first raised in the fall of 2003.

President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz served as meeting chairman and moderated the discussion. Liebowitz adjourned the meeting after proclaiming the resolution a chance for the faculty to engage the difficult issues that had been raised throughout the process.

"I hope that after this we can convene as a group to continue to do what's best for our students and faculty," Liebowitz said.

Under the new proposal, the major in American Literature and Civilization will cease to exist, and the departments of English and American Literatures will be combined into a single department, while American Studies becomes an interdisciplinary program.

Associate Professor of Classics Jane Chaplin presented the EAC proposal. Chaplin emphasized the Committee's belief that both new programs can be staffed for the fore-

See English, page 5

On the Inside

news 1
local news 6
opinions 8
features 10
focus 12
arts 16
sports 24

HITCH A RIDE
THE DOWNSIDE OF FERRYING MIDD KIDS HOME | 7

SODOKU INVASION
THE HYPE COMES TO *THE CAMPUS* | 15

MIDDBRIEFS

BY ANNIE ONISHI

Trustees grant tenure to four professors

At its Dec. 15 meeting the Board of Trustees granted tenure to four faculty members, promoting them to the rank of associate professor. Professor of Political Science Erik Bleich, Professor of Economics Jeffrey P. Carpenter, Professor of Economics Jonathan T. Isham Jr. and Professor of German Bettina Matthias were all granted tenure after a semester-long review process.

Bleich published an article in the April 2005 edition of "Theory and Society" entitled, "The Legacies of History? Colonization and Immigration Integration in Britain and France." Bleich said that he is looking forward to the opportunity to "pursue more 'high risk, high reward' avenues" with his students in the coming years, but that the freedom afforded by tenure will not fundamentally change his habits, since he has "been pursuing [his] interests in teaching and research since [he] arrived and will continue to do so."

Carpenter collaborated on a project called "Truckers and Turnover: Using Field Experiments to Understand Driver Decision Making." In addition, he co-authored an article in the June edition of "Theory and Decision" about aspiration-based dynamics.

Isham received recognition for his collaboration on a project to facilitate the nascent climate movement. Of his recent promotion, Isham said, "To put it mildly, I am honored to be tenured at Middlebury. This is an extraordinary community, of which I am proud to be a member."

Matthias, in the German department, echoed Isham's sentiments, saying, "It's a wonderful confirmation of the value of the work that I have done here since 1999, a proof that what I have to offer and can do with Middlebury's resources and great students is what the College wants and perceives as part of its mission or identity. Personally, it is an assurance that I will be able to be around the people who have been part of my life for the years to come."

Ramaswamy to stand in for Dean of Faculty

Beginning in July 2006, Frederick C. Dirks Professor of International Economics Sunder Ramaswamy will fill the position of acting dean of the faculty, vacated by Professor of Psychology Susan Campbell, who will be on academic leave next year.

Ramaswamy has been a member of the faculty of Middlebury College for the past 15 years. His managerial resume includes acting as the chair of the economics department and serving as the director of the Madras School of Economics in India.

As acting dean of the faculty, Ramaswamy's duties and responsibilities will vary greatly from his current post as professor. The dean of the faculty is in charge of making sure that the academic side of the College runs smoothly. In addition, Ramaswamy will be involved in recruiting new faculty members, will serve on tenure review committees and will participate in the maintenance and further establishment of the educational review policies.

The dean of the faculty, along with most other administrators of the College, is traditionally selected from within the College community. Ramaswamy believes that this tradition maintains the close community feeling of the College, because those in charge are already familiar with the environment. However, he also believes that this practice can sometimes hinder progress, since not all great teachers make great managers in an administrative setting.

Ramaswamy said of starting his new position, "Although right now I am not nervous about taking this role, starting any new job will pose challenges... for one year, it will be a good challenge." He continued, "Of course, I will miss teaching my full complement of courses and the everyday contact with my students. I intend to offer one senior seminar in economics and also be there to advise honors thesis students."

CORRECTION

The "Blowin' Indie Wind" column in the Arts section of the Dec. 8, 2005 issue of *The Middlebury Campus* was mistakenly attributed to Erika Mercer. The writers were, in fact, Ben Golze and Alison Lacivita. *The Campus* sincerely regrets this error.

Liebowitz attends D.C. summit

Bush unveils initiative to boost language studies

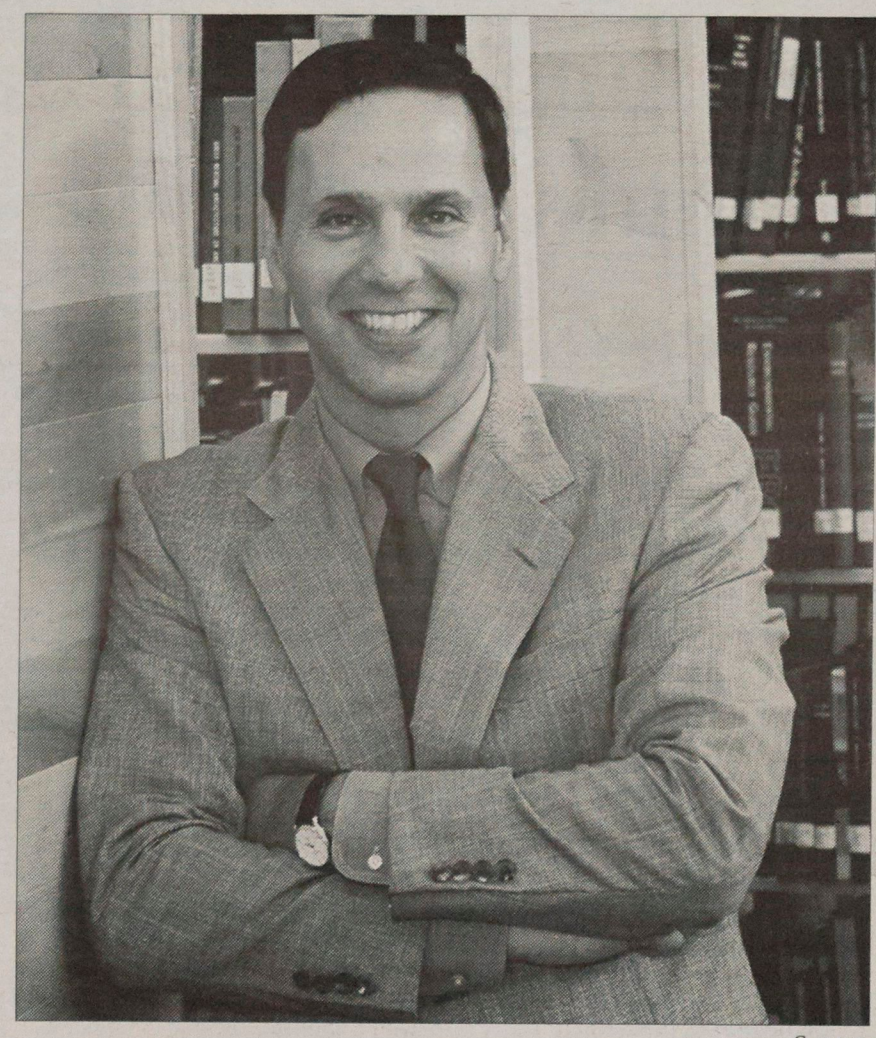
By Kathryn Flagg
News Editor

Middlebury College President Ronald D. Liebowitz joined over 100 other college presidents last week in Washington, D.C., for the Defense Department's Summit on International Education. During the two-day summit, President George W. Bush unveiled a plan to strengthen the foreign language skills of American students. For Middlebury College and the recently affiliated Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS), this proposal brings to the forefront of national attention a focus on the study of foreign languages already inherent in the College's curriculum.

"We both offer languages at the center of what we do in international education," said Liebowitz in reference to the College and MIIS. "Now this has become a major, central focus of the Bush administration."

Under this new plan, Bush will request $114 million in the 2007 fiscal year to fund the National Security Language Initiative. Approximately three quarters of this initial investment will come from the State and Education Departments. Additionally, the Department of Defense would earmark more than $750 million from 2007 to 2011 to train personnel in "critical languages." Bush did not, at last week's two-day summit in D.C., speak to the gathered college presidents regarding the much larger language initiative that will come through the Defense Department.

The President's request will be made formally in his budget proposal for the 2007 fiscal year. The initiative will also create a new National Language Service Corps of teachers and translators for the armed services and will strive to produce 1,000 new teachers of Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Hindi, Russian and other "critical languages." The budget proposal also includes plans for producing 2,000 advanced speakers of these critical langues by 2009, increasing funding for scholarships and creating new summer immersion programs.



Courtesy

I'm delighted that finally this government and administration have finally recognized the importance of supporting foreign language study.

—Ronald D. Liebowitz

Bush also spoke about the importance of facilitating the study of international students in America, and announced plans to expand the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program to bring additional native speakers of critical languages to the United States. The president vowed to "find that proper balance between security and letting people come to our universities," a promise that garnered the loudest applause from the college presidents according to the *Chronicle for Higher Education*.

While Liebowitz predicted that the College and MIIS, as leaders in the study of foreign languages, would play a key role in achieving the administration's new goals, he noted that it may be some time before the immediate effect of the proposal is seen on campus. "Right now it's unclear how this $114 million initial seeding will be allocated," he said. "It's unclear how we and other institutions can tap into the funding."

Liebowitz did, however, point to MIIS's Graduate School of Language and Educational Linguistics as a program that may play a critical role in the new proposals in the near future. The program trains language speakers in educating new students and could prove a valuable resource in producing the teacher and student numbers targeted in Bush's initiative.

"The dearth of teachers of these critical languages is to me the missing piece," said Liebowitz.

He also noted that three of the College's nine summer language immersion programs are in critical languages. While the College does not currently teach Farsi or Urdu, he said it is possible that new languages would be added to the suite of Summer Language Schools in the future.

Liebowitz observed that the majority of presidents present at the summit welcomed the proposal but noted that some individuals have raised concerns. "There was a lot of enthusiasm among the college presidents," he said, "but also some degree of cynicism." According to *Inside Higher Ed*, many presidents have said that they will need more details to fully evaluate the proposal, and others have expressed concern about the Pentagon's large role in the language initiative.

Liebowitz, however, left the summit pleased with the event's message and outcome. "I'm delighted that finally this government and administration have recognized the importance of supporting foreign language study," he said.

Bush speaks out: promoting the proposal

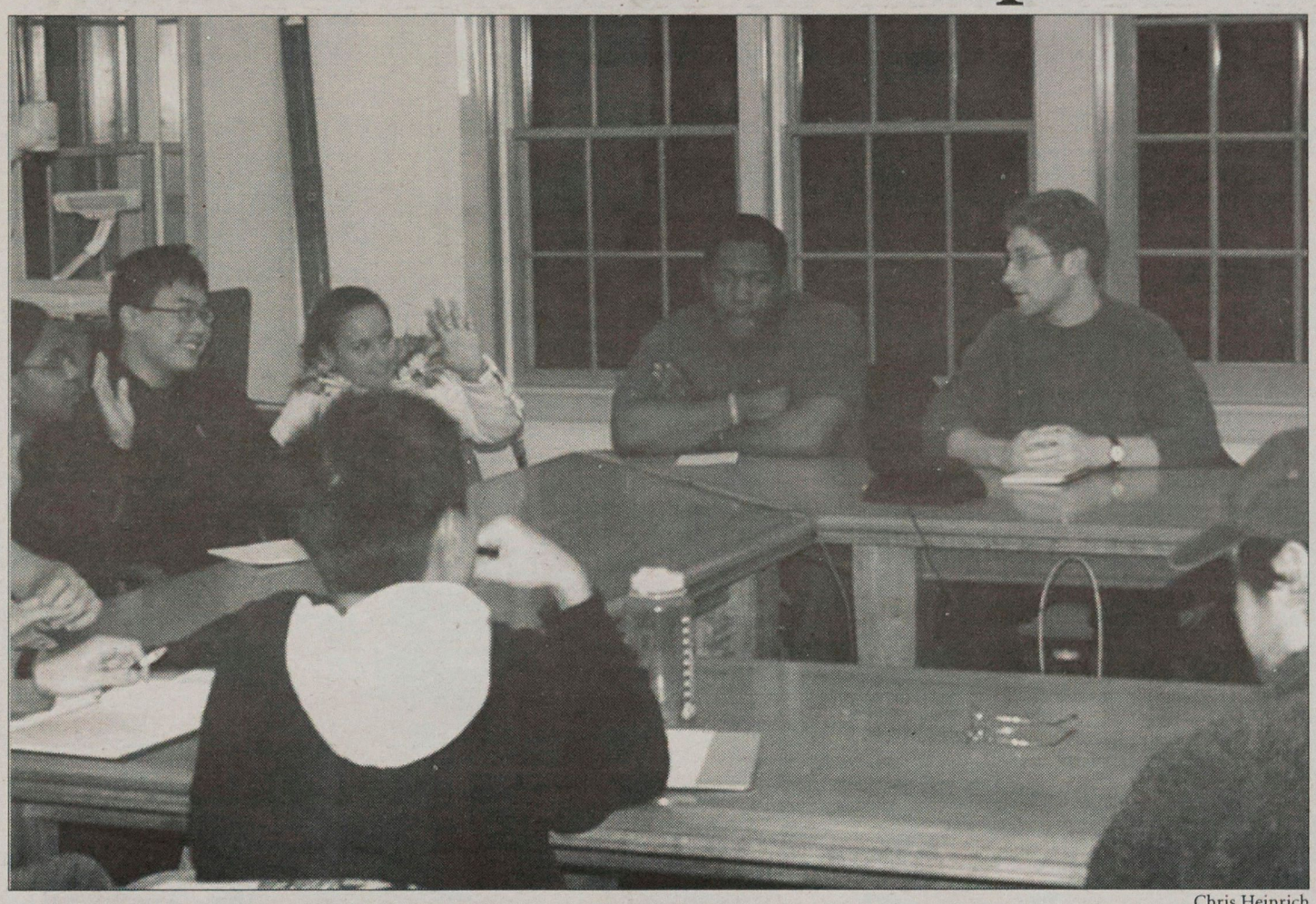
"[This is a] broad-gauged initiative that deals with the defense of the country, the diplomacy of the country, the intelligence to defend our country, and the education of our people."

"[Learning a foreign language is] a way to reach out, to say, 'I care about you.' When someone comes to me and speaks Texan, I know they appreciate Texan culture."

"We've got to convince people of the benefits of a free society and you can't convince people unless you can talk to them."

— *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and *Insider Higher Ed*

SGA crafts local transit plans



Chris Heinrich

Eli Berman '07.5 led Sunday's meeting of the SGA. The meeting primarily focused on identifying last term's successes and creating an agenda for the winter and spring terms.

By Chris Knapp and Jason F. Siegel
Staff Writer and News Editor

The Student Government Association (SGA) held its first meeting of 2006 on Sunday night in the Robert A. Jones '59 House conference room to go over its accomplishments from the fall and to set its agenda for the winter and spring terms. SGA President Eli Berman '07.5 encouraged members of the SGA to maintain the discipline and momentum they had achieved last semester as they move into the coming year.

Berman emphasized the progress the SGA had made in implementing a College-run shuttle service to and from nearby cities. "We've conducted a survey, and it's clear that students really need the College to provide transportation," he said. "Eventually we'd like to have weekly buses to Montreal, Boston and New York. But for now, we're going to start with a shuttle to Burlington. It should be in place by the end of Winter Term. At this point, we're just waiting for the money."

Berman noted that the Student Activities Fee would fund the service, but added that the more than 800 responses were "overwhelmingly positive," and many said they would even be willing to pay a fare for the service.

Another goal for the SGA is the shuttle to the Mad River Glen and Sugarbush ski resorts. Nearly half of all respondents to the survey said they would favor such a service, and about half of those would be willing to pay a $10-15 fee. Berman said that the fee would offset most of the cost, and would require an investment of less than $1,000. The service may be running by the end of the month, if not earlier.

Berman mentioned that the SGA was investigating the possibility of purchasing a bus for Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) on the condition that the bus run on biodiesel. ACTR is also looking for $6,000 per year to make up for the gap in its budget for the Snow Bowl route, more than 70 percent of whose passengers are College students.

Other plans for the SGA include a major update of its out-of-date Web site and the organization of elections. There will be a vacancy in Brainerd Commons since Jen Bowen '09 returned to Tulane University, as well as an opening for junior half-year senator and first-year Feb senator.

"We've accomplished so much, and we can only improve," Berman said. "But to really get things done we're going to need to make sure we stay focused and keep working hard."

Walking Through Woods

Jennifer Shapland

Weathering the January snow, Old Stone Row looks out over a wintery Vermont vista and the town of Middlebury.

OVERSEAS BRIEFING

BY BERNARDO PURON

BUENOS AIRES — On Nov. 2, 2005, the U.S.-based group Youths Against War and Racism called for a nationwide student walkout in opposition to the war in Iraq. Most high schools required students to have their parents sign permission slips in order to "walk out."

Following the protest, *The Star Tribune*, Minnesota's most widely circulated newspaper, printed an opinion piece concerning the demonstration. The author had visited the Web site of Socialist Alternative, one of the key organizers of the Minnesota protest and her findings shocked her.

The Web site recommends the reading of Marx, Trotsky and Lenin. The editorialist exhorted parents to be more prudent in the future, and to explain to their children the fate of these authors and their ideology.

That same month, I was studying at the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) in Argentina, a place where the even hippiest of Middlebury students would discover the true deep end of liberalism.

There, Argentine students were preparing for the arrival of U.S. President George W. Bush. Demonstrations against President Bush's visit began in early September and by November the walls of the UBA were plastered with "*Fuera Bush*" (Get Out Bush) posters and graffiti.

Air Force One touched down at the coastal resort town of Mar del Plata, host of the Summit of the Americas. In reaction to the summit, socialist organizations — or as they preferred to be called, "anti-imperialist" groups — organized their own summit: the Summit of the People. Soccer legend Diego Maradona gave the rogue summit a media-friendly face, and Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez made an appearance at both.

The tension between the two events was felt even five hours north in Buenos Aires. The capital experienced about seven significant demonstrations and a terror scare in the subway system.

For most Argentines, the month of November was just another chapter in their turbulent history. Political demonstrations are quotidian. November was highlighted merely because of President Bush's visit.

The 2,000-person demonstration at the University of Minnesota, on the other hand, was a solitary, unusual event for the state, which sparked a number of interpretations. Many people became nostalgic for the politically active students of the Vietnam era. Others, like the *Star Tribune* writer, viewed the event through a quasi-McCarthyist lens.

The demonstration in Minnesota was more harshly criticized for being organized by a socialist group than for being anti-war. In contrast, as a student in Argentina, your position on the war is more important than your ideological affiliation.

Though Argentina and Minnesota may be like apples and oranges, perspectives like these can serve as a reminder as to how different apples and oranges really are.

Bernardo Puron

Strategic planning releases recommendations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Committee outlined several major recommendations centered on a primary objective, the College's commitment to the personalized education of undergraduates. More specifically, the planning process is seeking to strengthen the curriculum, attract an increasingly diverse student body and expand upon the Middlebury's financial aid contributions to foster access to the College for all admitted students.

The first major recommendation addressed by the Committee in the draft is to continue to foster the strength and experience of the student body. This initiative includes enhancing the College's financial aid programs in order to ensure a stronger and more diverse student body that will support the best possible educational experience for all students.

In addition to this proposal, the Committee also recommended improving opportunities and support for the faculty and staff. Among the top priorities are increased research funding and staff support and a greater integration of faculty and staff members into the educational life, including the commons system, at Middlebury. The draft states that "by focusing on the important human dimensions, we will ensure that members of our community stay connected with each other and with the College's educational mission."

I think we take pride in reaching this milestone of having a draft as a basis for engaging the community, but our task is certainly not yet completed.

—Dean of Planning John Emerson

Essential to the enhanced interaction between students and faculty and staff is a reduction in Middlebury's current student-faculty ratio from nine to one to approximately eight to one. This proposal would allow every academic major at Middlebury to pursue some independent senior work as a requirement in the curriculum.

Residential life at Middlebury was also discussed by the Committee as an essential aspect of the undergraduate experience. The draft emphasized the development of a more vibrant residential atmosphere and a more seamless connection with the College's academic programs. Emerson said, "We recognize that a very significant part of the education takes place outside the classroom. At Middlebury, the residential commons should support both our formal educational programs and the rich array of special programming and informal interactions that contribute to the college experience. It should also support student leadership opportunities, and contribute to a vibrant social life for the community."

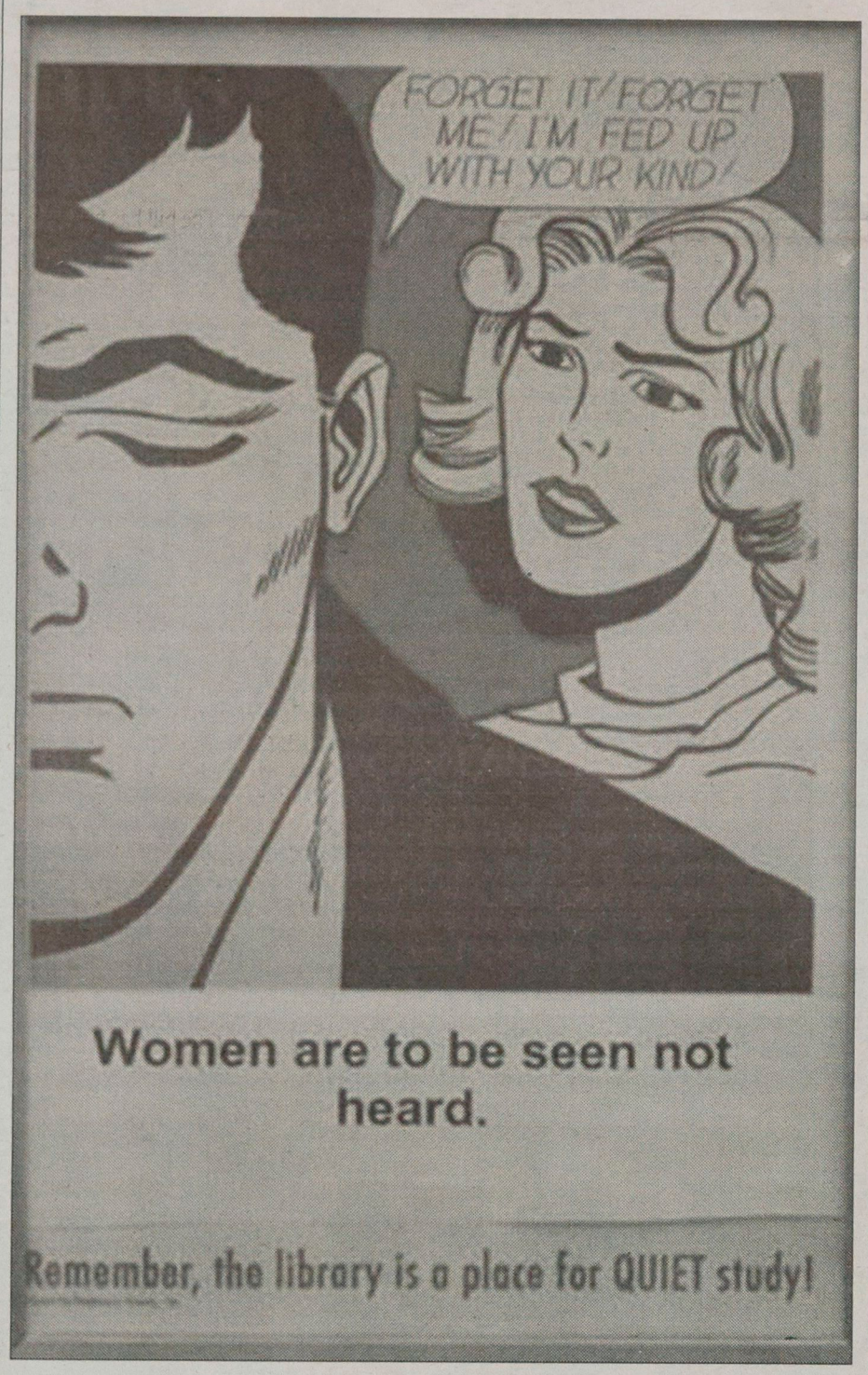
Conversely, the Committee also examined its graduate and specialized programs, including the Language Schools, Schools Abroad, the Bread Loaf School of English, the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference and the newly affiliated Monterey Institute of International Studies, that distinguish the College from other liberal arts institutions. Focusing on the challenges relating to these programs, the Committee made specific recommendations that seek to bring these programs into a more cohesive relationship with one another and with the undergraduate program.

While the Steering Committee has made significant progress in outlining objectives for the future of the College, it has been somewhat constrained by limited resources. As Emerson emphasized, "I would acknowledge the challenge that is inherent in trying to support the very high aspirations of our community, using resources that are not infinite. We have needed to choose from among many imaginative proposals and initiatives those that will best support our mission and our future strength."

The draft has nonetheless considered the opinions of faculty, staff and students in the decision-making process and has thus developed a comprehensive and collaborative report reflecting all attitudes throughout the College. Planning Committee member J.S. Woodward '06 said, "The biggest point throughout the process was to emphasize the importance of involving the members of the community in the decisions that are made, both currently and in the future. In order for change to be effective, it must be accepted by all of the stakeholders, whether student, faculty, staff or neighbor."

Emerson remarked, "I think we take pride in reaching this milestone of having a draft as a basis for engaging the community, but our task is certainly not yet completed."

LIBRARY SIGNAGE SHUSHED



JJ Hurvich

Showcasing a poor sense of humor, an unidentified library-goer took advantage of the opportunity for sarcasm offered by this sign at the New Library and gave it a decidely offensive twist. The piece of paper pictured above, reading "Women are to be seen not heard," was taped to the sign, which was set up inside the library to dissuade students from making noise during ever-stressful finals week in December.

President leads talks on alcohol on campus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the past the College and the town had not followed the interpretation as closely as it does with the new liquor inspector. Director of Business Services Tom Corbin said that the liquor laws were not intended to stem off underage drinking; rather, their intention is to prevent private homes from becoming places of public drinking. Guest lists then come from the need to define a group to keep a private party indisputably private. "We happen to be in a state that more strictly enforces the liquor laws," said Liebowitz.

In response to a student's interest in shuttles to and from off-campus parties, Liebowitz and Dean of the College Tim Spears stated that there were major legal obstacles, especially the abetting clause of the laws, which state that it is illegal to help minors acquire alcohol.

The conversation then turned to what drives the need to drink. "Being in rural Vermont, there is a drinking culture at this school," said Jessica Singleton '08.5. Students in attendance were generally in agreement that there is a large need to get away from the institution, and not necessarily physically. A popular suggestion was a space somewhere on campus or very near campus that was operated exclusively by students.

"Last year I had about 15 student lunches where I just sat myself down to talk with students, and [having student-run, non-institutional spaces] was the model suggestion to improve social life on campus and reduce the sense of needing to go off campus for social life," said Liebowitz. When he asked if there was a way to create such a space on campus, he was met with suggestions for a student pub, which might also attract off-campus seniors back onto campus.

Jeanine Buzali '09 mentioned that the licensing of more dining spaces would be an excellent way to accomplish this goal, to which Corbin responded that there are a number of new spaces in the process of getting licensed.

Menaker then asked for the administration's view of underage drinking, "It's our biggest concern. The students' safety is any administrator's principal concern," said Liebowitz. "The number of students taken to the Health Center and Porter Hospital this weekend was disturbing, way above the normal level." Spears echoed this sentiment, carefully pointing out that the dialogue would be difficult because of the sensitive legal difficulties.

Director of Public Safety Lisa Boudah mentioned that Public Safety has had a tough time dealing with the law and student drinking habits, and noted that some of them, such as drinking too much on an empty stomach, have become increasingly frequent since the change in the drinking age from 18 to 21.

The increased presence of the police department on campus also came up. Liebowitz and Spears both noted that though the College is private property, there are public roads, including College Street and Hepburn Road behind Mead Chapel, that traverse it over which the police do have jurisdiction.

After the meeting, the various members of the administration said that though they were disappointed with the turnout, they were quite pleased with the candor and frank tone of the meeting.

They also stated, however, that many things went unsaid this meeting. Spears pointed out that students feel the need not just to drink, but to drink to excess. Speculating on one probable cause, Spears said, "I think people do drink heavily to hook up. But how do we talk about that?"

Vice President for Communications Michael McKenna said, "It's about letting off steam. What's changed now is the throwing up," and the like, which according to him was considered mortifying even among rugby-playing frat brothers in his college days.

The other topic not brought up was the fact that while many would say that students who choose not to drink are not stigmatized, there is little peer pressure to stop drinking before it becomes excessive. Boudah did state during the meeting, however, that because so many students drink excessively together, it is difficult to keep tabs on one another.

Liebowitz also mentioned that a large factor in excessive drinking is that many students come to campus already somewhat acclimated to furtive drinking, behavior that they continue here.

The Jan. 19 follow-up meeting will have a fairly different structure. There will be a panel featuring Boudah, Middlebury Chief of Police Tom Hanley, Vermont State Liquor Inspector Mike Davidson and several students.

English, Am. Lit set to join forces

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

seeable future using existing faculty resources and that the creation of the new programs can also be seen as "restructuring existing departments."

A steering committee will oversee the new American Studies Program and will take responsibility for any future modifications of the program. Majors in American Studies will have to take five required courses, three electives and five courses in one of four possible areas of concentration. Chaplin said the EAC believes the new program represents a "huge opportunity for interdisciplinary study" at the College.

In the view of the EAC, the Department of English and American Literatures is an "intellectually strong and coherent major in literature written in English," according to Chaplin. Students will be required to take introductory courses in English literature, American literature and one course emphasizing close reading. Chaplin noted that all but two requirements for the major could feasibly be completed by taking classes focusing on the American canon.

The new programs will be fully integrated into the curriculum beginning with the Class of 2010. Students currently majoring in American Literature and/or Civilization can finish their majors at the status quo.

During the ensuing discussion, Frederick C. Dirks Professor of Political Science Michael Kraus pointed out that voting on the restructuring of a department in which that department's faculty did not give unanimous consent is an unprecedented job for the Faculty Council. Kraus urged his colleagues to consider the repercussions of their votes. "We are about to put an end to a department," he said. "This is setting a precedent. From now on a department that is divided five to four can be dissolved."

A motion to postpone further consideration of the proposal until either all of the Faculty that were directly involved can bring forward a unanimous proposal, or failing that, for a period of at least one year to allow time for cooling off and to further urge the administration to make some form of professional mediation available also failed.

Reginald L. Cook Professor of American Literature Brett Millier, an ardent supporter of the EAC proposal, argued in favor of resolving the issue, though she stopped short of calling the question. "Your task is a vote on the simple matter of structure," she told her colleagues. "What I want most of all today is to move forward so that the healing, if it is to take place, can begin."

While the ballots were being tabulated, Liebowitz answered the question of why neither he nor his predecessor, Professor of History John M. McCardell Jr., had taken a more visible role in the deliberation.

"During the course of the last 15 months, I have received many a communiqué," he said. "No matter how difficult and how painful the process became," he continued, "I felt it was important for us to work through this in our departments and then to go through the proper channels that the College has set up."

SWINGING INTO WINTER

Jennifer Shapland

Abandoning the swings behind Alexander Twilight Hall, students have taken to sledding, skiing and snowboarding. Next week, the Sunday Night Group will sponsor "Get Outside Week" — another initiative to encourage students to enjoy the Vermont winter.

public safety log

DECEMBER 7, 2005 TO JANUARY 5, 2006

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
12/7/05	Unknown	Theft	Bicycle	McCullough	No Suspects
12/9/05	7:50 p.m.	Theft	Clothes	Atwater	No Suspects
12/10/05	7:00 p.m.	Theft	Wallet	Athletics Complex	No Suspects
12/10/05	11:50 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	Theft	Jacket	Gifford	No Suspects
12/10/05	12:48 a.m.	Vandalism	Lights	Hadley	No Suspects
12/10/05	11:20 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Palmer	Referred to Commons Dean
12/10/05	10:20 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Forest	Referred to Commons Dean
12/10/05	10:46 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Battell	Referred to Commons Dean
12/10/05	10:43 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Battell	Referred to Commons Dean
12/10/05	10:40 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Battell	Referred to Commons Dean
12/10/05	11:05 p.m.	Drug Violation	Marijuana	Hepburn	Referred to Commons Dean
12/11/05	12:35 a.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Palmer	Referred to Commons Dean
12/11/05	1:03 a.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Forest	Referred to Commons Dean
12/11/05	3:00 a.m.	Vandalism	N/A	Hadley	No Suspects
12/11/05	1:28 a.m.	Drug Violation	Marijuana	Brackett (Tavern)	Referred to Commons Dean
1/3/06	Unknown	Vandalism	Interior	KDR	Open
1/4/06	Unknown	Theft	Toolbox and Tools	Nelson Arena	No Suspects
1/5/06	10:50 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Battell	Referred to Commons Dean
1/5/06	9:50 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Le Chateau	Referred to Commons Dean

COLLEGE SHORTS

BY JASON F. SIEGEL

Bowdoin student suffers attack

More than one month after fending off a knifepoint attacker by hitting him across the face with a bottle of Tide, Bowdoin sophomore Joshua Cippel was attacked once again early last month in the same location.

Cippel went to open the door in the stairwell leading from the laundry room in his residence hall, but could not open the door, because it was being held from behind. Through the door he heard, "F--- you, Tide man." The intruder let go of the door, hitting Cippel in the head and causing him to fall backwards down the stairs. The victim then called emergency services, though they did not find the attacker.

Earlier, an attacker had threatened Cippel with a knife in an attempted robbery in that same laundry room. Because he did not see the intruder in the later attack, he could not determine whether it was the same man. Bowdoin Director of Security Randy Nichols said that it was a highly unconventional move for a criminal to avenge a failed crime.

The student lives in an area of which many Bowdoin students are wary. There have also been reports of peeping toms.

—Bowdoin Orient

Congress slashes student loans

Just before the holiday recess, both the House of Representatives and the Senate approved a $12.7 billion cut in federal student loan programs. The bill has not yet gone to the President, since there are slight differences in the bills approved by each branch of Congress that will need to be resolved before the bill can go to the White House. The President, who has never vetoed a bill, is expected to sign this one as well.

The cuts come as part of an effort to reduce the federal deficit, and make up part of a larger $40 billion package. This is by far the largest cut ever in the history of student loan programs.

The bill would impose an increase in interest on student loans from 4.7 to 6.8 percent. Students who are from low-income families are likely to be those most adversely affected by the legislation. Some predict that this legislation will deter low-income students from going to college or graduate school, since the amount of money to repay will be so much higher.

—U-Wire

Michigan drops Coke contract

On Dec. 29, the University of Michigan became the 10th university in the nation to stop selling and distributing Coca-Cola products, the result of activists who condemned the company's alleged mistreatment of its workers in Colombia and pollution habits in India.

Opponents of the soft-drink corporation claim that Coca-Cola has refused to acknowledge the role it played in the deaths of eight Latin American union leaders over a 14-year span, saying its recent internal investigation that cleared it of any current wrongdoing, was both biased and failed to address the controversies of the previous two decades. Other opponents claim that in India, one factory is responsible for soil pollution, reductions of available water in an arid region and the spread of pesticides in water.

Coca-Cola has denied the claim but has nevertheless faced strong resistance on college campuses.

The University of Michigan has demanded an independent investigation, and although the company is investigating the possibility, it did not do so by the school's Dec. 15 deadline.

—The New York Times

localnews

6
THE STATE OF VERMONT
GOVERNOR GIVES UPDATE AND PRESENTS NEW AGENDA

7
BUSING HITS ROADBLOCK
BUS COMPANIES GIVE DRUNK STUDENTS THE BOOT

7
RESTAURANT REVIEW
BAA BAA BLACK SHEEP BISTRO COULDN'T GET ANY BETTER

Douglas delivers State of the State

Governor to pursue Agenda of Affordabiliy for Vermonters

By Katherine N. Doorley
Local News Editor

While it is a commonly known fact that the President of the United States is required by law to give a "State of the Union" address to Congress each year, it is less commonly known that most governors are required to do the same. Governor Jim Douglas '75 recently presented his "State of the State" message to the Vermont General Assembly, stressing what he has chosen to call an Agenda of Affordability for Vermonters.

The State of the State speech traditionally serves as an avenue for the governor to reflect upon the economic and social circumstances facing the state as well as to propose a legislative agenda for the new term. Douglas' speech closely followed the traditional model as he highlighted Vermont's agreement with the federal government to allow the state to control the Medicare and Medicaid health care funding programs as well as Vermont's low poverty rates and exceptional record in environmentalism.

Douglas' message had a common theme — an Agenda of Affordability. Throughout his speech he highlighted programs and proposals designed to ensure that each Vermonter has access to health care, job training and the education needed at a cost that does not present a burden. First among the highlighted programs was Douglas' new health care agenda. Douglas called upon the legislature to pass his health insurance plan which would make health insurance more affordable and would provide health insurance to all children in the state.

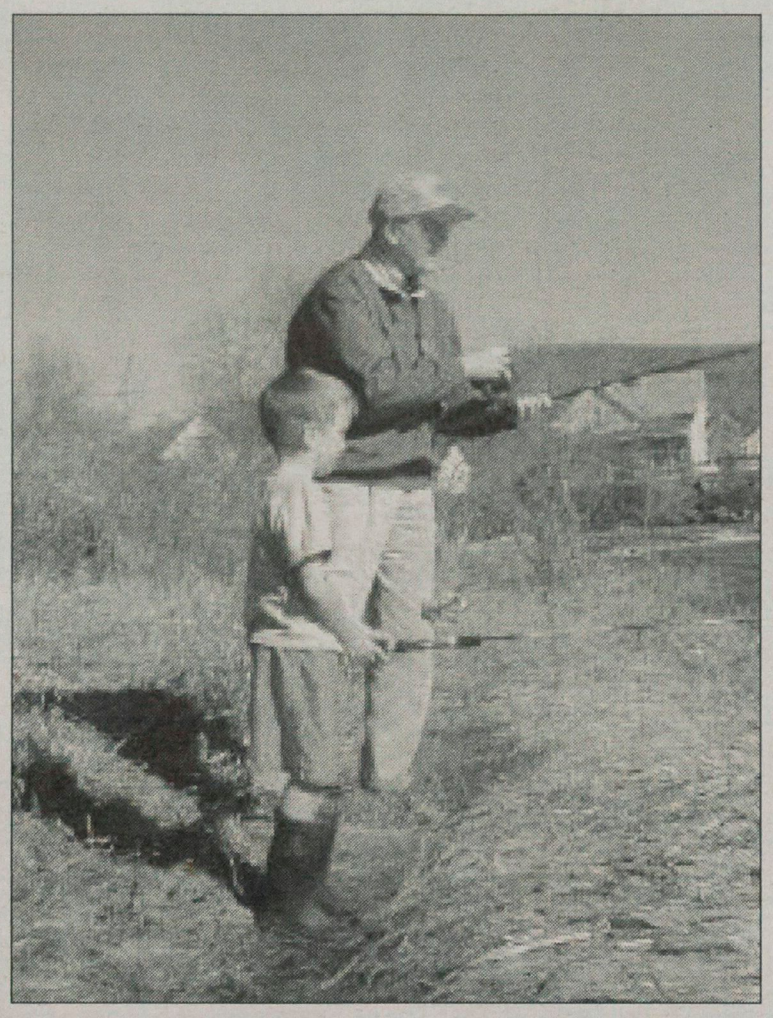
The second prong of Douglas' address was making Vermont a more affordable place to live and work. "Vermont has the sixth highest cost of living in the nation, despite no major metropolitan areas. Already, the flight of young people as a result of high expense and limited opportunities has helped make Vermont the second-oldest state in the country." In order to combat the youth flight, Douglas proposed a series of tax and business reforms that are designed to create jobs and lower the cost of living in the state.

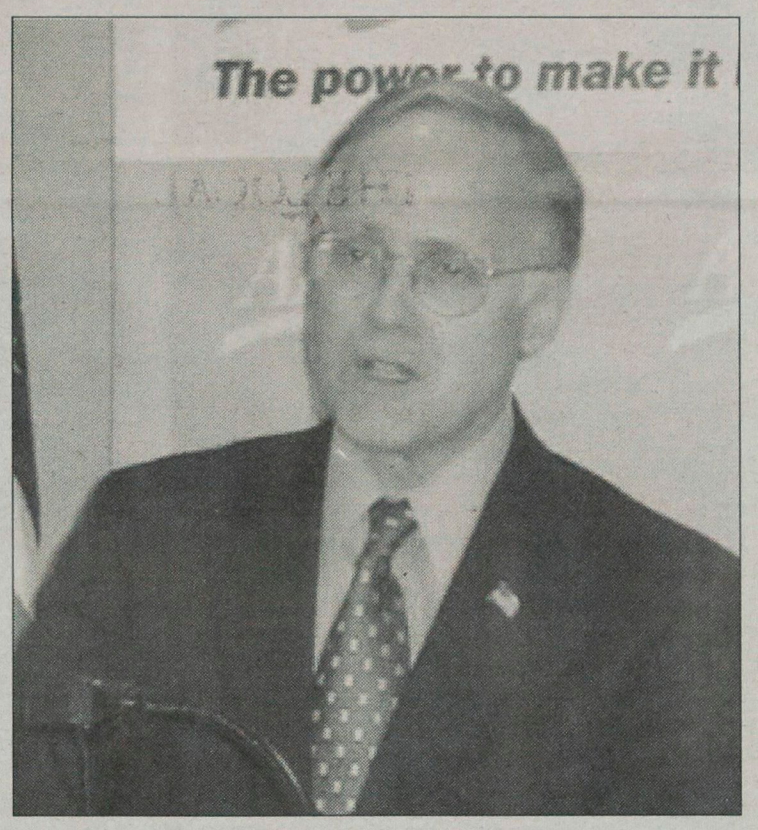
"We must take action now to adopt an agenda of affordability for Vermont's families. We need to begin today to remedy the high cost of health insurance, to address surging property taxes and housing costs that are squeezing working Vermonters, to help employers create more good-paying jobs and to put a college education within reach of every Vermonter," said Douglas. Douglas pledged additional funding for education to ensure that those students who wanted to were able to afford college tuition, with special scholarships to those who choose to attend school in Vermont, since Vermont has the second highest number of students leave the state to attend college. Douglas also called for initiatives to bring environmentally friendly industries to Vermont and to transform the state into the "Silicon Valley of environmental industries."

One of the most controversial pieces of legislation passed in recent years is the Act 60 Education funding act which has significantly raised property taxes in some parts of the state. Douglas noted that, "if we expect to keep Vermont affordable for Vermonters, we must act now to dramatically curb the unsustainable growth in property taxes. Today I am offering a comprehensive property tax relief plan for Vermont families to return sustainability to school spending, and give real power back to the local voters and school boards. I am a firm believer in local control — but since Act 60 undermined that control, property taxes have spun out of control." In order to combat the rapid increase in taxes the Governor has proposed a cap on property tax growth as well as the elimination of machinery property tax for Vermont's farmers. Through measures such as these, Douglas expressed hope that the state would be able to curtail many of the rapid tax increases that have made living in Vermont so expensive.

Finally, Douglas addressed the issue of criminal rehabilitation. While the number is not large, there exists every year a number of former felons who are released back into the community at large who have never completed a rehabilitation program. Douglas called upon the General Assembly to provide additional funding for criminal rehabilitation programs, arguing that, "For the sake of our children and families, we must ensure that these extreme sexual and violent predators successfully complete treatment that will help prevent another victim before they are released into our neighborhoods among our children."

It now remains to the state legislature to act upon Douglas' proposals. However, whether or not the entirety of his program becomes law, Douglas' speech sent a clear message about his vision for the future of the state and its residents.





Courtesy

Governor Douglas addressed the Vermont General Assembly with his annual "State of the State" speech. The Governor has set an ambitious agenda with tax reform, health care reform and a series of economic incentives among his many proposals.

Governor Douglas' Speech: The Key Components

Comprehensive health care reform to provide insurance to the elderly, to children and to the uninsured without substantially raising the cost

Ease the over-taxation burden by capping property tax growth and by cutting statewide tax rates

Create new middle and lower income housing

Incentives and infrastructural reforms to encourage environmental industries to relocate to Vermont

End the "exodus of young people" by providing new jobs and incentives for them to stay in the state

Vermont Promise Scholarships: Scholarships for more than 1000 students each year provided they attend school in Vermont and agree to remain in Vermont once they graduate from college.

Rowdy students limit bus options

By Rachel Durfee
Staff Writer

Ironically, much of the buzz on campus this academic year has centered on off-campus parties. Increasingly popular among students, off-campus parties have won bonus points this year because they are free from many of the restrictions placed on campus events. The appeal of no guest lists, no keg limits and pretty much no rules at all has students of all class years flocking beyond the boundaries of the College to party on the weekends. Although more off-campus parties increase the number of social opportunities for Middlebury students, a consequent issue of major concern is transportation to and from these off-campus houses/farms/open fields.

Commonly referred to as "beer runs" or "drunk runs" by transit workers, most local transit companies have stopped providing transportation for off-campus parties due to the havoc it causes on the buses and taxis. Betcha Transit, Inc., which shuttled students back and forth to multiple events last year, says it simply was not worth the hassle of their buses being left wrecked and exceedingly dirty. John Sharrow of Mountain Transit, another company no longer shuttling students to off-campus parties, agrees. He says party-goers made a mess of the buses — spilling beer, littering and leaving behind a stench of alcohol and cigarettes that was often impossible to remove the next day.

According to the Betcha company spokesman there was a lot of "unruliness" from drunken students, and drivers were witnesses to "a lot of puking, even defecating" on the ride home. "Through the years it got worse and worse," said Sharrow. But he stressed that damages were the deciding factor in discontinuing the shuttles more than student behavior, although that "was part of [the decision]." Although Betcha Transit may consider reinstating their shuttle services for off-campus college parties, according to a December general survey, no drivers were interested in volunteering for the job. As of now there will be "No more so-called 'drunk runs'."

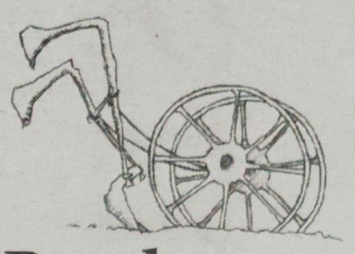
Last year Lindsey Whitton '05 and friends had trouble finding transportation for a party they wanted to throw during Senior Week at Finius T. Flubberbusters bar just over the state line in Hampton, N.Y. Their first call, to Betcha Transit, proved unfruitful. The company declined the job, reportedly saying they would be unable to find drivers to volunteer for the event and citing recent negative experiences shuttling students back and forth to both a party at an off-campus house and a birthday party also held at Flubberbusters. In the end, Whitton was only able to rent coach buses from The BusBank, a national company whose coaches for the night came from Massachusetts with strict rules and a steep price tag.

Interestingly, companies who have never been hired for late-night weekend transportation seem willing to take on the apparently infamous job. Randall Charlebois of Premiere Coach, which provides 50-person capacity buses, says liability is not a concern, since transit companies are not held responsible for ID-ing drinkers, nor for what happens at or after an event for which they are providing transportation. Says Charlebois, "I'd rather see somebody get somewhere safely than get into their own car." Wanda Robar of Morf's Transport says the company has never done such events either but would be willing to, "So long as [passengers] behave respectfully, 'cause if they don't, they're walking."

Speculation says companies are hesitant to provide transportation due to liability issues, but this conjecture proves unfounded. While Vermont's open container law does prohibit both the driver and passengers from possessing an open container of alcohol in the passenger compartment of a vehicle, the issue is more complex. To avoid losing Federal funds for highways, the state of Vermont adheres to Federal guidelines which, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, dictate that a State's open container laws must "Apply to all vehicle occupants except for passengers of vehicles designed, maintained or used primarily for the transportation of people for compensation (such as buses, taxi cabs and limousines)". Hence transit companies cannot be held in violation of any open container laws in Vermont, even taking into account an interpretation of the law that considers underage drinkers in and of themselves "open containers."

Still, it seems Middlebury students are hard pressed to find a local company to transport guests to and from parties, and if the trend continues, it will only be more difficult in the future.

A word of caution to those seeking alternate forms of transportation: According to Vermont State Law, Title 23, Chapter 13, no. 1014: "A person riding an animal or driving any animal-drawn vehicle upon a road is granted all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a motor vehicle by this chapter except those provisions of this chapter which by their very nature can have no application." So yes, you can be pulled over and even dealt a DUI riding a cow home.



Rural Banter

BY ERICA GOODMAN

In the good ole days, young men and women "went a-courtin'". The eligible young bachelor would harness his horse to the buggy and bounce along the dirt road to the home of the lady he admired. The two would sit under the watchful eye of the young woman's parents, who made sure there was no touching or "petting" that might taint the innocence of their young daughter.

Dating in the 21st century is certainly a bit different than a Victorian era rendezvous. Men and women, young and old, now go out on the town to urban areas where entertainment abounds — from plays and musical shows, to jazz and dance clubs. The possibilities are endless. Rural areas lack the same social spaces.

Some small towns, like Middlebury, have quaint restaurants where two twitterpated individuals can share an intimate dinner. Even in the middle of rural Vermont, it is possible to extend the date beyond dinner to a movie, but also a movie without even leaving town. And, if the couple is lucky enough, they might watch the latest blockbuster on the one movie screen without the big yellow line down the middle.

But in the rural village of Fort Ann, N.Y., where I grew up, young couples are not afforded such luxury. The most social areas in town that are open year-round are a pizza place and one of the largest Cumberland Farms convenience stores on the east coast. In the summer, the hot spot is an ice cream parlor and miniature golf course called "Hillbilly Fun Park."

The local business offers a wide variety of tasty treats that can temper any awkward first-date conversations. There are two different miniature golf courses on the complex, assuring that if the first date goes well, you can always return for a second one. But real dating in Fort Ann begins after you trade in your bicycle for car keys. Driving a good 20 minutes to the nearest "downtown" offers real restaurants and a movie theater.

As we have grown up, those looking for love have become more creative in their quest — a hike in the Adirondacks, a run around the lake, snowshoeing under a full moon. They offer a similar cardio workout as a night on a New York City club dance floor, and fresh air. Options for a potential suitor are also limited. I graduated in a class of 45 students, large by the town's standards but small in terms of the dating world.

Not only do you know your neighbors, but also your neighbor's neighbors, and your neighbor's cousins in West Fort Ann who once walked dogs for your friend who lives in the village. One does not have to be on the dating scene long before she has exhausted her resources. Poor Samantha would never survive Sex in the Cowland. But when it comes down to it, the challenges are essentially the same, no matter where you go a-courtin'.

THE LOCAL FLAVOR

By Sean P. Breen
Staff Writer

The Black Sheep Bistro is certainly the most "European" of restaurants easily available to Middlebury students: As the former chef of the famed Starry Night Café in Ferrisburgh, Michel Mahe opened Black Sheep Bistro in 2002 with the vision of a simple French bistro and an uncomplicated pricing strategy — all appetizers are the same price, as are all entrées. Mahe grew up in his family's French restaurant in New York City and was educated at Cornell's highly regarded School of Hotel Administration.

Located in the historic town of Vergennes, Black Sheep Bistro could easily be a small restaurant in the south of France or northern Spain. The café defines the meaning of "elegant simplicity." The atmosphere is understated with cream-yellow walls covered in a multiplicity of small French caricatures and cartoons. Patrons are seated at square wooden tables without tablecloths, and small modest silverware is placed on cotton napkins.

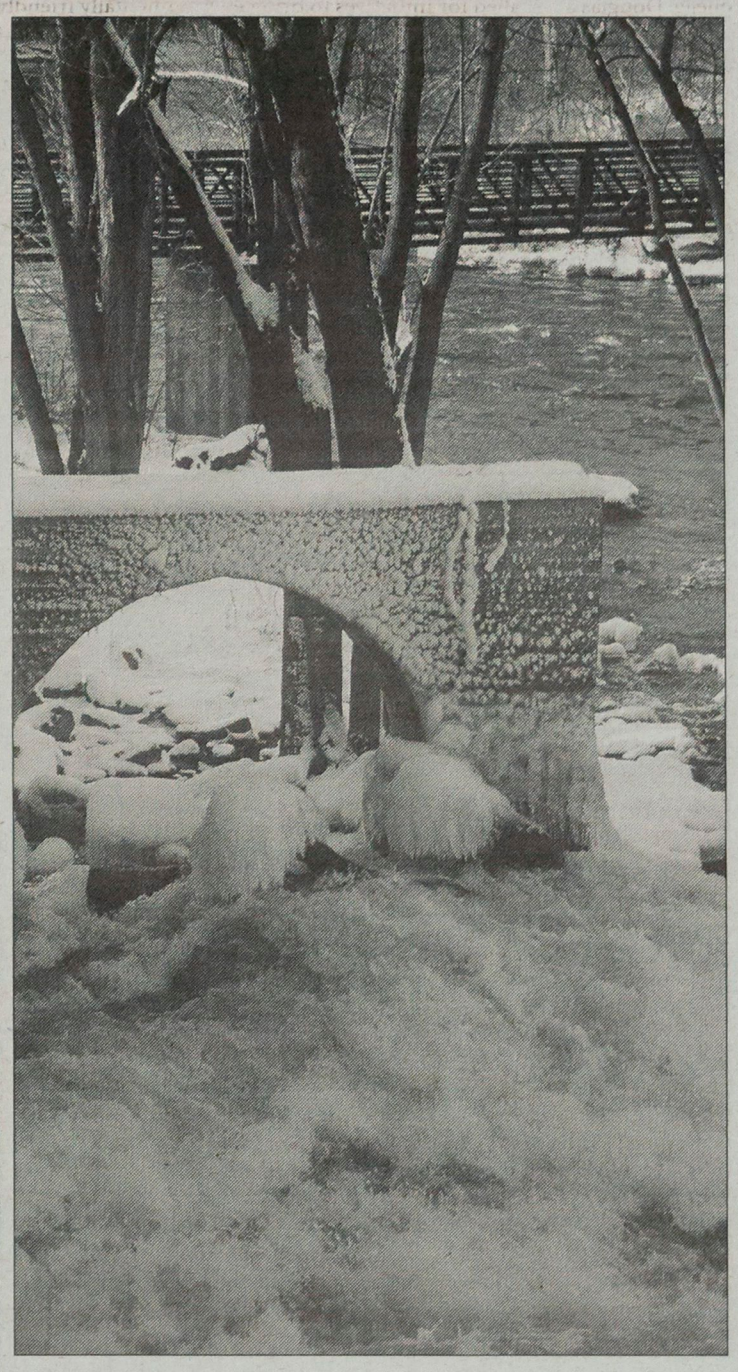
The rustic setting, however, only adds to the environment. Like the atmosphere, the cuisine is rustic, but is flawlessly executed and prepared with "super fresh" ingredients. While the menu does not change often, frequent diners are continually satisfied. In accordance with its French country image, wild fowl and red meat are the stars of the menu, but there are also a number of fish and pasta dishes for the less carnivorous. To begin with, the winter menu hosts a legendary pumpkin bisque soup: a thick, creamy concoction that is at once sweet and spicy — a pure delight. Alternatively, the fresh salmon cakes or the lobster ravioli are both prime choices as appetizers. For main dishes, the roasted duck breast served with an au jus demi-glaze sauce is heavenly. For red meat lovers, the lamb and the filet mignon are both terrific. In the winter, I tend to stay away from fish dishes, but the Black Sheep Bistro's salmon is a rustic, full-flavored fish that stands up to the cold very well and is prepared excellently by Mahe.

Like most French restaurants, especially those specializing in country cuisine, dessert can be hard to muster at the end of the meal, but I beg you, save room. With classical dishes such as crème brulée and apple tart tatin, Mahe also offers some distinctly American dishes, such as the heart -warming chocolate chip cookies served with a tall glass of milk. Could it get any better?

On the beverage front, the list is rather short, but very good. Wines are broken up by price and bottles range from $20 to $30. A number of good wines are scattered throughout the price ranges. To recommend one: the Jaboulet Aine Cotés Du Rhone "Parallel 45" is a terrific example of the syrah grape grown in the Rhone Valley of southern France and pairs nicely with the earthy tones in the food. Of course, beer is also an option with three on tap: a stout, oatmeal ale and a wheat beer. All are nice, but I tend to favor the wheat beer since it is full bodied and works nicely with the gamey food.

The simplicity of the dishes, combined with the chef's talent, makes every meal a delight. Service is a bit ad hoc, but always friendly, with a casual but romantic setting. For four years, Black Sheep has been a welcomed retreat, and I would recommend it to anyone. As my roommate says, "the place is nothing short of amazing."

SNOWY RIVER



Jennifer Shapland

An icy Otter Creek is perhaps not as icy as normal given that the abnormally warm January weather has stalled even the start of the traditional January broomball season on campus.

opinions

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Planning report has College's best interests at heart, but jeopardizes Feb program

The Planning Steering Committee's recently released comprehensive report demonstrates an admirable commitment by the distinct constituencies within the Middlebury College community to make the College a better place. The challenge of compiling the first such report and recommendations in 15 years was generally well met.

Although the draft of the mission statement released earlier this year placed too much emphasis on the College's graduate aspirations, the new draft achieves the proper balance of identifying the College's primary role as an undergraduate liberal arts institution and noting that Middlebury is unique among its peer institutions because of its affiliate programs.

Of the approximately 80 recommendations presented in the report, many will be accepted with universal applaud, whereas others will be more contentious and some will prove inherently unpopular.

The report's commitment to enhancing the lives of the College's staff by enhancing educational and professional development opportunities is laudable. The staff is an indispensable component of College life and staff members should be incorporated into the community as much as possible.

The recommendation to increase alumni involvement in the College should also prove beneficial. Career Services claims that a majority of students secure jobs and obtain career advice through MiddNet online. Increasing the number of alumni volunteers on the network and further incorporating the volunteers into College proceedings should therefore prove fruitful.

The Committee's recommendation to hold a day-long student research symposium is somewhat puzzling. It seems that holding a large variety of student thesis presentations on the same day would actually limit student attendance. The necessary day off from classes to host the event would also replace the one-day recess held during Winter Carnival. Whether it is time to reevaluate the Winter Carnival tradition of a day-long recess or not, the Committee's recommendation would certainly be accompanied by student protest.

The College should move to follow the Committee's recommendation to increase faculty resources as quickly as possible. The current student-faculty ratio of nine to one has been an inhibiting factor in student-professor interaction and in College rankings. Improving the ratio would also make possible other Committee recommendations, such as requiring independent work of all seniors.

Perhaps the most disturbing recommendation is the College's desire to scale back the February admissions program. By "gradually shrinking the size of the February program to 55 or 60 students," the College would exacerbate the primary problems with the program rather than fixing such deterrents and therefore create a social burden on Feb students by making them feel more in the minority. The current average matriculation of 117 students makes up a group that is large enough to have a presence on campus, thereby easing the incorporation of those students into a social scene that is largely already established. The program ensures that the College enjoys a dynamic social capital with new faces arriving each semester. The report notes that the number of Middlebury students accepted for February admission far exceeds that number at peer institutions. The College should embrace this distinction as yet another way of distinguishing itself from its peers.

Students should be aware of the curricular challenges of entering college mid-year, such as not being able to begin language study in the spring, but such problems should not be a cause for shortchanging the program.

Overall, however, following an unprecedented era of physical building on campus, the commitment to the "human dimensions" of the College vocalized by Dean of Planning John Emerson and made manifest throughout the entire report has taken College planning in a refreshingly new direction.

OPINIONS SUBMISSION POLICY

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's website at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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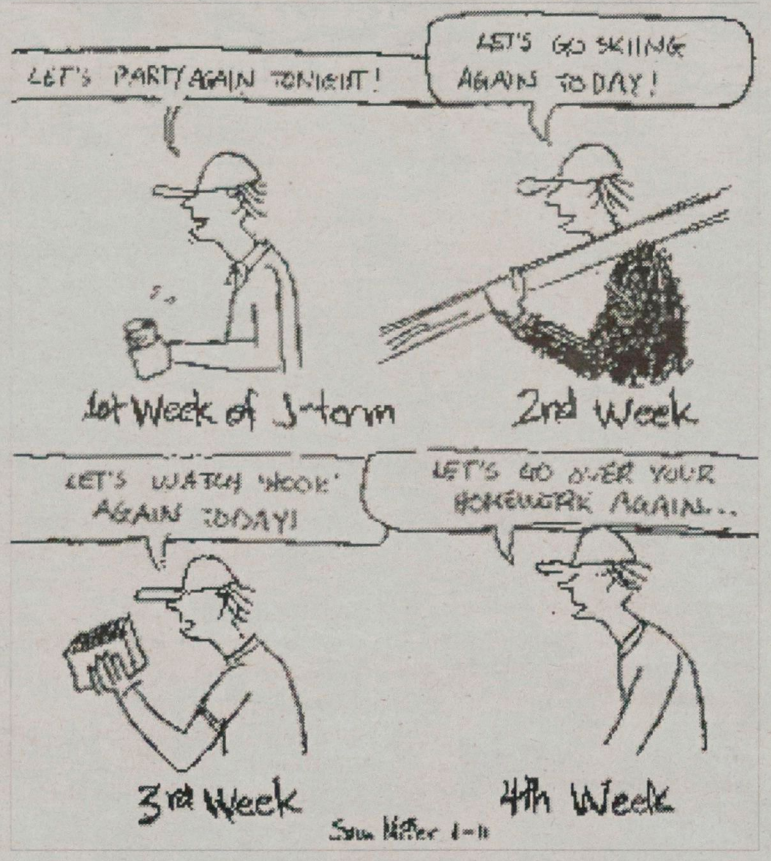
HEARD ON CAMPUS

DRIVERS WERE WITNESSES TO A LOT OF PUKING, EVEN DEFACATING ON THE RIDE HOME.

- Betcha Transit, Inc. spokesman referring to Middlebury students' prior actions during off-campus party transportation



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to the staff editorial in the last edition of *The Middlebury Campus*. While students are indeed ultimately responsible for their own choices when it comes to drinking and driving, the *Campus* editorial failed to address the reason why more students are seeking socialize at off-campus events. The "migration" started en masse about five years ago when the College outlawed hard liquor at registered parties. Students either resorted to dangerous pre-game binge drinking or abandoned on-campus parties altogether. The recently instated invitee-only policy at parties has not helped the situation.

Let's face it, Middlebury's Public Safety force is often overzealous in its attempt to monitor student drinking. When I was a student at Middlebury, I constantly felt as though I were under surveillance. Even after I had turned 21, I couldn't walk back from the Ridgeline parking lot with an unmarked brown-paper bag without coming under a Public Safety officer's scrutiny. The more like a police state the campus becomes, the more students will look to other places to socialize. I understand that Middlebury has students' best interests in mind, but there is no point in creating a "safe" environment on campus when it only forces students to an unsafe environment off campus. Hopefully it won't take a more serious accident for the College to reassess its excessively strict alcohol policies.

Sincerely,
Claire M. L. Bourne '04
Oxford University

To the Editor:

I am a French exchange student. Abroad you're confronted by different mentalities and behaviors. You adapt; it's part of the abroad experience. Through this adaptation process, some things are difficult to accept. However, something "normal" abroad, may not be elsewhere. No individual experience can represent an entire country's culture. In France, it isn't shocking to walk around wearing "pointy leather boots, chatting on the cell with a cigarette." Here too you overhear loud phone conversations, among other potentially impolite jests. While in the Parisian metro you might overhear detailed conversations about "Jean and Francoise's romance," a meal in Atwater often includes overhearing the American version — "Mike and Katie's" latest hook-up.

I don't believe that French people are always respectful. But I would never publish an article in a column claiming to show objective perspectives of life abroad for and by Middlebury students about a couple of unfortunate but irrelevant experiences that happen to everyone everywhere, in an article entitled "*la femme francaise.*" This insults and stereotypes all the "*femmes francaises*" who aren't like that stereotype. During my time abroad, I didn't expect to be publicly insulted in the campus newspaper. I'm sure American students wouldn't appreciate it if I published articles in France about the vandalism of the Islamic Society's message board in McCullough, saying all Americans are like that.

I appreciate this opportunity to study abroad, which not everyone has the fortune to experience. For me "*la vie est vraiment belle.*" I'll remember only the good experiences at Middlebury.

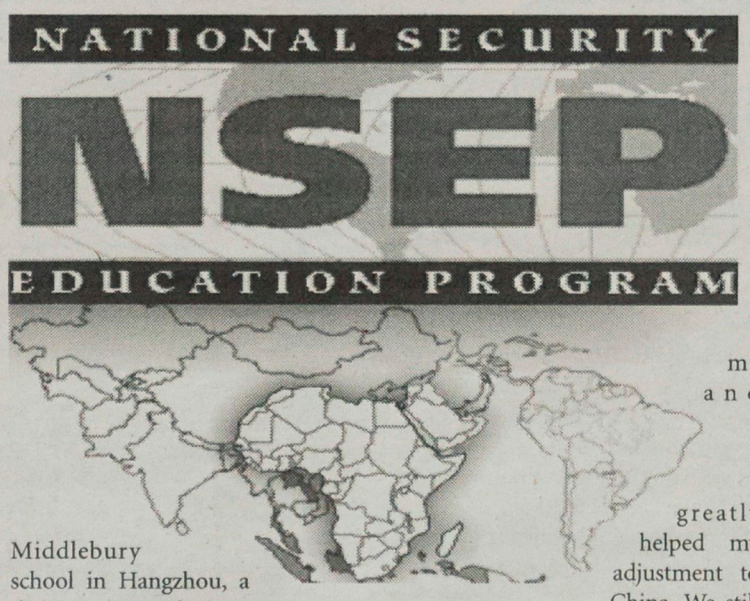
Sincerely,
Nelly Vigneron
Poitiers, France

NSEP opens doors to different worlds

The experience of studying in another country is for most students a time of intense personal growth in addition to the academic benefits, and fortunately the majority of Midd-kids do study abroad. However, when planning to study overseas many students ask two questions, how will I pay for the experience and how can I use it in my future career?

When I was a sophomore planning my semester in China, I began looking for creative ways to finance my study abroad and fortunately came across the National Security Education Program (NSEP)'s David Boren Scholarship. The purpose of this program is fairly simple: to encourage more Americans to study the languages and cultures of countries that are less commonly taught in U.S. schools. The way that the program achieves this goal is to financially support American college students who study in these countries. NSEP defines the less commonly studied countries as anything outside of Western Europe or Australia and New Zealand and the majority of recipients study either in Asia, Africa or the Middle East. However, if, for example, a student was taking Spanish and planning to study in Latin America, the program would still apply to him or her. Acceptance of this award requires a one-year term of employment with the federal government after graduation.

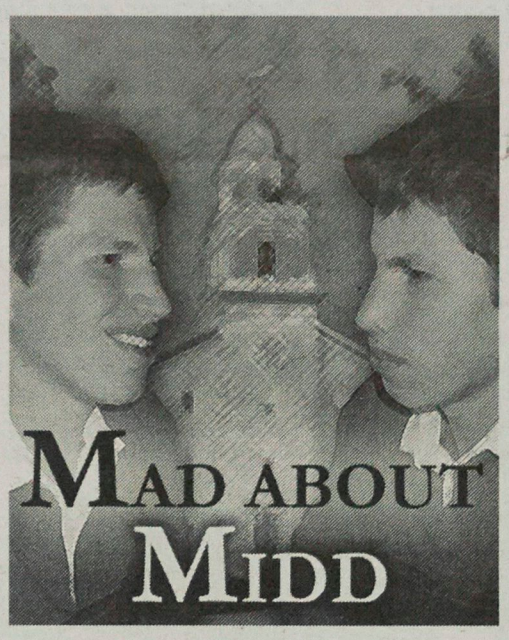
My semester in China was easily the most memorable of my time in college. I attended the new



Middlebury school in Hangzhou, a thriving city on the Eastern Seaboard. China is currently one of the most exciting places to live, with a booming economy and rapid development. Life there has a rawness and vibrancy that I have not encountered in either the United States or Europe. I was in Hangzhou at Zhejiang University of Technology (ZUT) during the inaugural semester of the Middlebury school. Despite some initial hiccups with the academic program it was a great semester and I made some lifelong friends such as my roommate, Fu Peijun, a junior at ZUT. A native of the city of Ningbo, he and his family were extremely welcoming to me and greatly helped my adjustment to China. We still stay in touch and I plan to see him the next time I go to China.

The Boren Scholarship helped to make my time in China possible and even better than it would otherwise have been. The award paid for a majority of tuition and living costs and thereby allowed me to use my personal funds to stay in China over J-Term to travel. In addition, the instruction and guidance that I received at an NSEP conference for scholarship recipients helped me to prepare for the cultural adjustments I would need to make once I got to China. Now that I am graduating in the spring and about to enter the workforce I am preparing to fulfill my service requirement. As a molecular biology major with an interest in infectious disease, I am looking at opportunities with the Department of State in the Office of Emerging Infectious Diseases. I hope to use my Chinese language skills and cultural experiences to mediate research cooperation and communication between scientists here in the United States. and those in Asia, especially on critical issues such as pandemic flu. In a world that is growing ever smaller it is especially important for professionals in both the public and private sectors to have a global perspective and the language skills to operate in other countries. For students planning to study abroad next year, I encourage you to apply for this year's NSEP Boren Scholarship, on-campus deadline: Jan. 20, 2006. For students who are only beginning to think about study abroad I urge you to try going some place, like China, that maybe you hadn't originally considered. More information about the NSEP program can be found at *www.iie.org/nsep*.

ADAM SWICK '06
A MOLECULAR BIOLOGY MAJOR
FROM HUDSON, N.H.



'Town-gown' tightness

By Dave Barker
OPINION COLUMNIST

I have no idea what "town-gown" relations mean. You see the hyphenated term thrown around in the *Princeton Review* college guide for prospective students looking for a school that has managed to be more than an island in the surrounding community. We are encouraged to read on Tuesdays in J-Term to children at Ilsley Library for the Page 1 Literacy Project. A recent post on the College Web site displayed a picture of members of the hockey team with students from Ripton Elementary School. These projects are wonderful and should be expanded, but I question how much the College administration and students are doing to improve the infrastructure of the town.

While the satisfaction of making a kid smile trounces that of, say, a completed water main, a public meeting I attended on Monday at the municipal gym convinced me that aging structures in town deserve some of the attention we're offering to kids. The Battell Bridge, which cuts through Main Street and offers those stunning views of the Otter Creek Falls, has multiple cracks in its foundation. The two railroad bridges in town are tangles of holes and exposed rebar.

Photographs of these crumbling structures were presented at the meeting by Town Planner Fred Dunnington as he told an audience of about 50 of the need for a new bridge that would cross Otter Creek to the right of Mister Up's, linking with Cross Street and Route 7. As of now, the traffic clogging the College Street/Main Street intersection often proves more frustrating than the Pub Night bartender shaking his head saying, "Sorry, we're out." Emergency vehicles which have to navigate the maze around the town green would be able to reach Porter Hospital faster.

The idea for a second bridge dates back to 1953. Several sites have been examined for a bridge including the current Cross Street plan, first discussed in 1992. What the town lacks are greenbacks. The proposed $16 million bridge project requires help from Montpelier, but given the tone at the meeting, it's going to take Battell Bridge cascading down the falls before the Vermont Agency of Transportation shows Middlebury the money.

The College should step in and help out. Without hockey games, family weekends and graduations, drivers could put the Aleve back in the glove compartment most of the time. Yet I was shocked at the small number of College administrators and professors at the meeting. One College representative present, Bob Huth, the executive vice president and treasurer, stated that the College supports the bridge but said that there has been no talk of helping to fund the project.

We as students should be involved as well. I cringed at the suggestion of writing and calling legislators. We should register to vote in Middlebury so we can participate at the annual town meeting in March. There, residents will be asked to endorse the bridge and to approve funding to continue the project. That meeting on Monday could have used the breath of idealism and ambition usually found in stifling quantities in Middlebury classrooms. We all know how frustrating it is to sit in traffic in rural Vermont when we should be cruising to the chair lift.

NOTES
FROM THE DESK

Ever since Al Gore invented the Internet, physical interactions have been replaced by electronic transactions. Now college students can even meet and greet friends on the Web thanks to Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg's online social networking solution Facebook.com. On Facebook, not only can you contrive your very own self image on a web page, but you can also spend countless hours reading your friends' contrived images of themselves, and you can poke people, just like you would in real life. Facebook members take gleeful pleasure in posting witty banter or deep sentiments, creating a précis of their lives for all their "facebook friends" to see.

If only it were just Facebook members' friends reading about their interest in "festive greens" and 50 Cent, or viewing that incriminating photo of a beer in one hand and a joint in the other. But Facebook has other members who will never be your facebook friend. These secret members hide behind the scenes, stuffing money into Zuckerberg's pockets in exchange for access to all your willingly provided information.

Your information as a Facebook member is more valuable to the secret members than to your true Facebook friends, and, according to the privacy policy agreed to upon joining, as a member you legally consent to Facebook's right to distribute your information to "responsible companies with whom [they] have a relationship." Jim Breyer of Accel Venture Capital Firm, who served on the National Venture Capital Association's board with a member having ties to the CIA, is one of these secret friends who recently invested $12.7 million in Facebook.

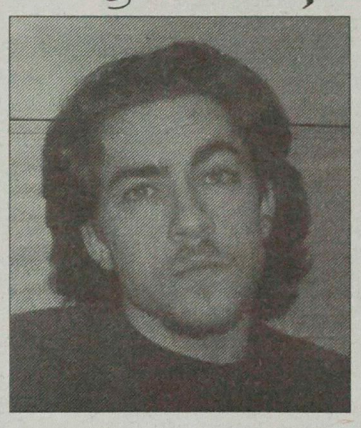
It may be that the government also wants a piece of the pie and a good look at your face. Your Facebook profile is the key to Pandora's box — once accessed, companies know exactly how to target you as a consumer and the government knows exactly where to find you and who to ask need they go looking. Just know that Big Brother is checking you out too, and getting to know your face pretty well in the Orwellian community called Facebook.com.

ANDREA GLAESSNER
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

The Middlebury Campus online poll

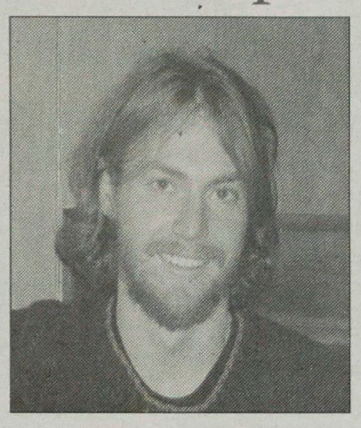
"GRADE INFLATION IS NOT A PROBLEM IN THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS."

—EMILY KIM GOLDSMITH '08



"GRADE INFLATION...? I'M A THEATRE MAJOR"

—EVAN DUMOUCHEL '06.5



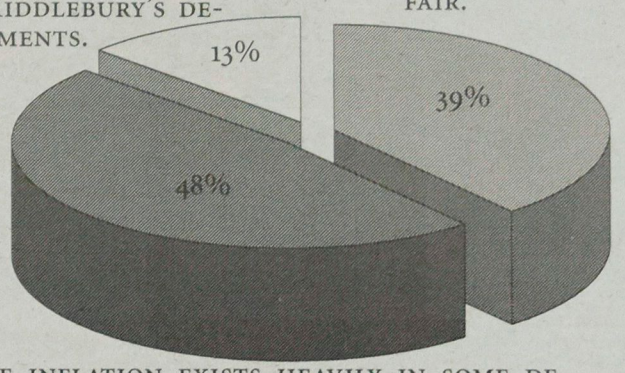
"IF WE WANT STUDENTS TO HAVE FREER RANGE IN THEIR STUDIES, THEN GRADE INFLATION MUST BE ADDRESSED, BUT THAT ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT."

—TERRAY SYLVESTER '06

DO YOU THINK GRADE INFLATION IS A PROBLEM AT MIDDLEBURY?

GRADE INFLATION EXISTS THROUGHOUT ALL OF MIDDLEBURY'S DEPARTMENTS.

GRADING AT MIDD I FAIR.



GRADE INFLATION EXISTS HEAVILY IN SOME DEPARTMENTS AND IS TOTALLY ABSENT IN OTHERS.

Results based on 51 responses collected between April 8 and April 13 at www.middleburycampus.com

NEXT WEEK'S POLL QUESTION: IS J-TERM REALLY A TIME TO CHILL?

features

10
NOW AND THEN
NOT SO LONG AGO THE DRINKING AGE FOR ALL VERMONT STUDENTS WAS 18

11
J-TERM
IT'S NOT YOUR FALL TERM COURSE LOAD

14
CROSSWORD
THINK YOU'RE A J-TERM EXPERT? FIND OUT HERE

Drinking at Midd: past and present

By Derek C. Schlickeisen
Features Editor

It's no secret that there is a lot of drinking at Middlebury: every Monday morning, Busch Light cans litter the sidewalks and fill trash bags that pile up outside the supposedly dry first-year residence halls. But is drinking really becoming more prevalent? From 1972 until 1986, Vermont lowered its drinking age to 18, creating a social atmosphere at Middlebury unlike anything seen today. From those free and easy times to the crack-down of the Vermont State Liquor Inspector, *The Middlebury Campus* examines how changes in state drinking laws have influenced life at the College.

As the Vietnam War dragged on into the 70s, the nation saw a great deal of social change. As reported by the U.S. Government, college campuses were no exception: between 1970 and 1975, 30 states lowered their legal drinking age to either 18 or 19, creating for the first time a situation on campuses in which the vast majority of students could legally drink. "The logic was that if you can fight and die for your country at 18, then you ought to be able to buy a beer as well," explained Dean of Advising Karl Lindholm '67. "Especially since thousands of young people actually were fighting and dying during that time period."

When the state of Vermont joined the growing 18-and-older trend in 1972, the result, according to Lindholm, was an explosion of businesses in the town of Middlebury that drew students with alcohol-themed events. "Campus was organized around fraternity parties prior to the lowering of the drinking age," said Lindholm, referring to a time when the college had 11 fraternities and several non-residential sororities. "When the drinking age was lowered, establishments in town really absorbed the social life of the campus."

In addition to current establishments like Mister Up's and Two Brothers, the town used to offer a wide variety of options to compete with Greek parties on campus. Housed in the building now called "Starr Mill" was the "Alibi," a night club with live music, pool tables and a bowling alley. Less than one block away was the Rosebud Café, which accommodated a saloon in its basement. Said Lindholm, "Because of capitalism and entrepreneurship, the social life was downtown because businesses wanted to attract students. And almost every single student could drink." Of particular interest to many students was the Friday Afternoon Drinking Club, which saw dozens of students head to the Rosebud's saloon after class. "You used to see FADC bumper stickers," said Lindholm.

Since drinking was a very public activity during these years, a frequent aspect of getting to know one's professors included socializing over drinks. "We used to have departmental receptions at the end of each semester for all of our majors," said President Emeritus John M. McCardell. "There wasn't excessive drinking that went on there — it was an adult event that allowed us to engage in adult conversation with adult beverages."

In 1984, however, President Ronald Reagan pushed legislation through Congress denying federal highway funds to states with legal drinking ages under 21. In two years, the state of Vermont felt the crunch and decided to make the change. The result, according to Lindholm, was that "the drinking life came back on campus." By this time, after years of losing members to downtown Middlebury's vibrant drinking scene, only six fraternities — and no sororities — remained on campus. With the bars no longer serving them, however, most students looked to the Greeks for something to do on a Saturday night. Even though fraternity membership remained lower than it had been before the drinking age was lowered, weekend fraternity parties became more popular than ever.

The fraternities delivered: while bars and night clubs in town were suddenly fearful of serving alcohol to minors, the law did not allow for intrusive inspections inside the frat houses. "The long-standing rule was that fraternities were considered domiciles, so the police wouldn't enter the party without a complaint," explained Lindholm. "And even then, there was usually only one police officer on duty, and he wouldn't like to go into parties where there were 200 or 300 revelers."

The game is over...
but
the party is
just beginning.
You may not be cheering for the same side during the game.
But you'll agree you came to the right place afterward.
Join us. We're the pros in our league.
MISTER
UP'S
The American Express Card. Don't leave home without it.

Above: a 1985 ad for Mister Up's, where it was once common to see professors and their students socializing over drinks.

After a 1988 incident at the Delta Upsilon house, however, the Greek system came under attack. That night, fraternity members hung a bloody, dismembered female mannequin out of a window, sparking outrage among those who claimed the fraternity system promoted sexist behavior. Following the incident, a task force on social life recommended turning fraternities into social houses and setting up the commons system now in place. "The tension created by drinking coming back on campus helped create the situation that led to the abolishment of fraternities at Middlebury," said Lindholm.

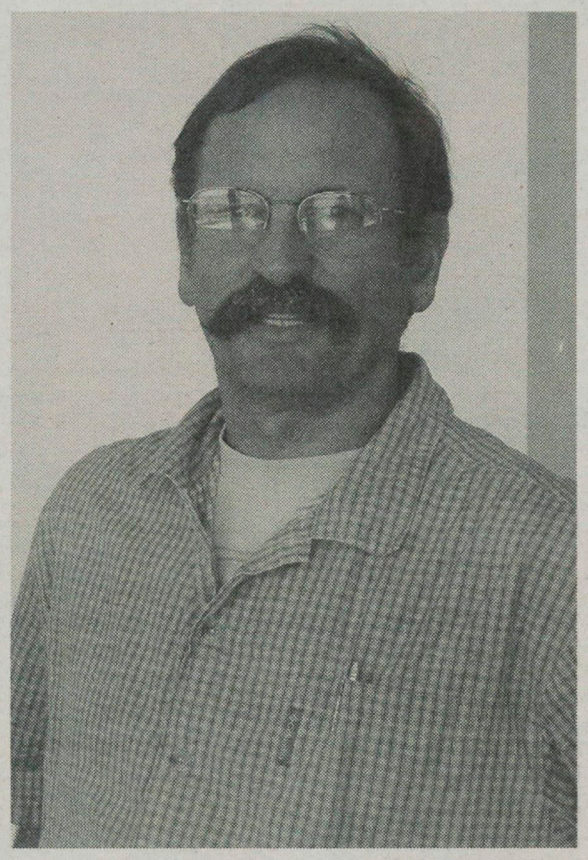
Despite the many complaints about the new liquor inspector and the stricter interpretation of state drinking laws, there are signs that the pendulum may swing back in the other direction. While McCardell and others are publicly calling for a re-examination of drinking laws, Vermont state legislators have introduced a bill that would reinstate the lower drinking age of the 70s and early 80s. Said McCardell of the current age restriction, "It is a law that is easily circumvented and capriciously enforced and it breeds nothing but disrespect for law in general. It encourages students to do dishonest and illegal things like coming up with fake IDs, and those aren't lessons that laws should be communicating."

Professor introduces local farming

By Mallory Falk
Staff Writer

Visiting Professor Will Stevens' J-Term class is anything but conventional. In "Eating Locally, Thinking Globally," students analyze their personal food histories and prepare dishes from scratch. They frequent local farms, visit an orchard or two and speak with beekeepers and berry specialists. "It's important for me that folks put a face on farming," Stevens said recently. "[I want to] enhance students' appreciation for what brought them to this campus."

A farmer himself, Stevens uses personal experience as a context for the course. Originally from Western New York, he moved to Vermont in the late 70s. "You can be someone in Vermont," he said. "Who you are and what you do matters…I wanted to be a part of that." Stevens and his wife spent several years in crafts but soon turned to farming. They started small — selling apples at the Burlington Farmer's Market — then purchased a half-acre of land in Shoreham. What began as an "overgrown home garden" soon developed into Golden Russet Farm. Now over 20 years old, the farm provides Vermonters with fresh produce throughout the summer, fall and winter.



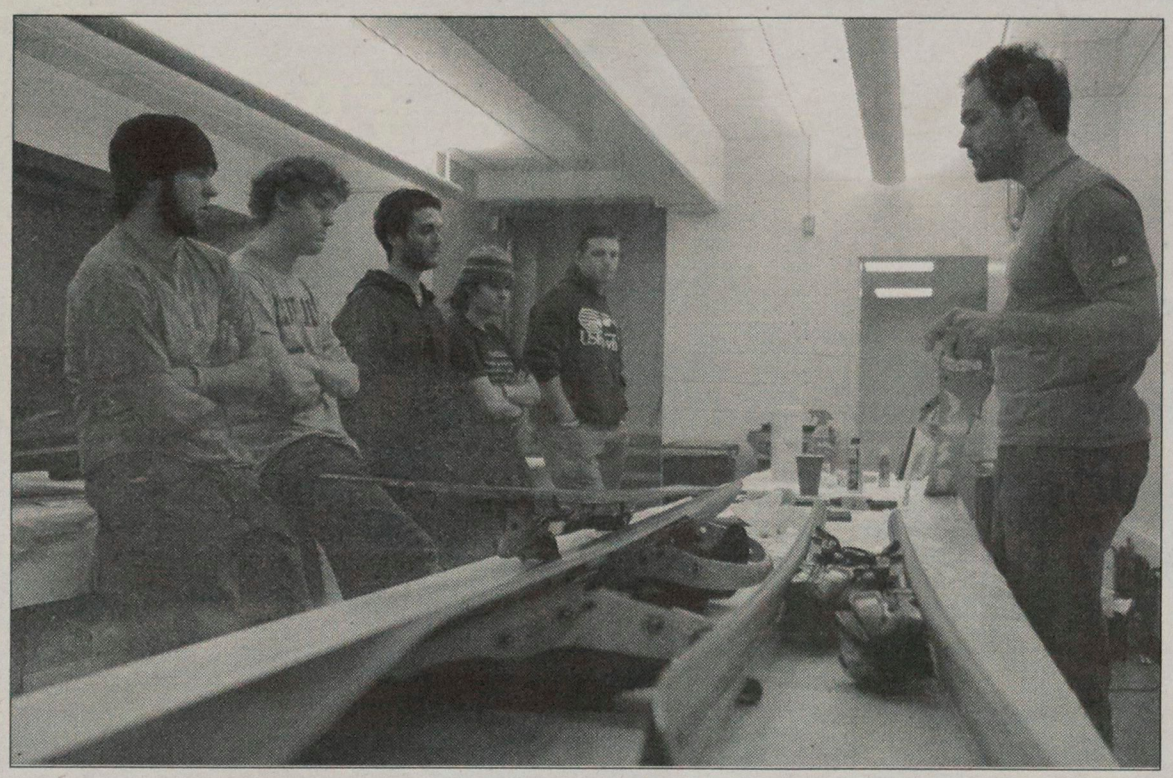
The farm's success lies in what Stevens terms "relational marketing." He and his wife sell their vegetables directly from the farm, as well as at farm stands and farmer's markets. As part of the Community Supported Agriculture program, townspeople may stop by the farm on a weekly basis and collect whatever is in season." Since there is no middleman, the Stevens come to know their customers well. "It's all about relationships," Stevens said. As he has written on the Golden Russet Web site, this system "strengthens the link between producers and consumers" and "keep[s] food dollars close to home."

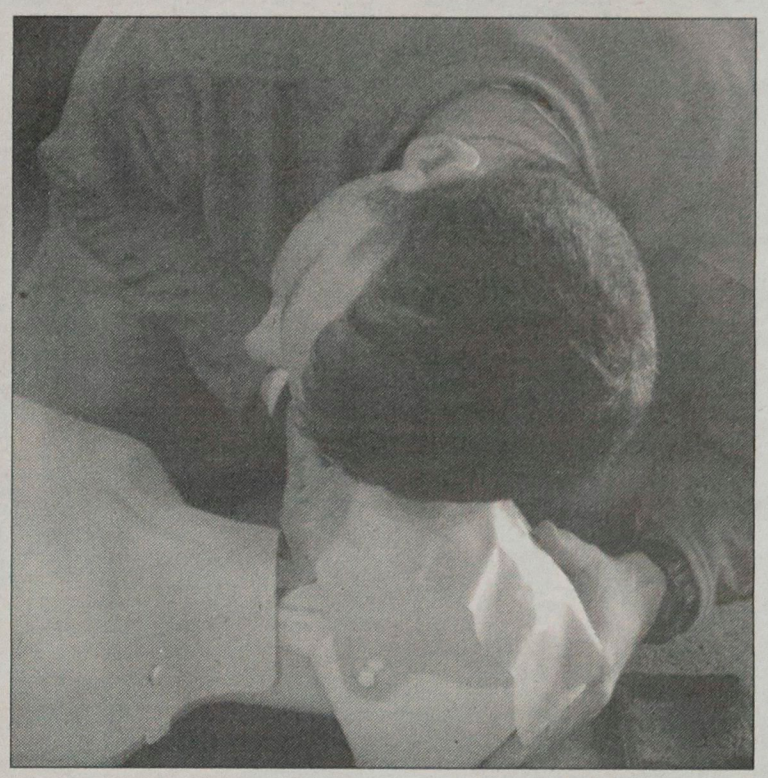
Stevens' personal approach to farming has paid off. In 2004, Golden Russet was named Sustainable Farm of the Year. And there is never a shortage of helpers. The farm attracts many recent college graduates, people who, according to Stevens, are "tired of using their brains [and] just want to use their bodies." The farm provides a place where "people can grow while helping things grow," Stevens said, adding, "it's a school of life."

Now, Stevens hopes to communicate his farming experience to Middlebury students. His class, which was first offered last winter, has already become a hit. This is largely because of his engaging teaching style. Stevens believes that students learn best from interaction with others — hence the mid-January meeting with a local cheese maker — and he also encourages debate. For those still not sold on the course, there is Stevens' homemade apple cider — a standard on the first day of class. And the lesson plan is appealing as well. By pairing such reads as "Fast Food Nation" with visits to Champlain Orchard and the Crawford Family Farm, he introduces students to global and local movements and presents a variety of perspectives on farming.

In dividing his time between Middlebury and Golden Russet Farm, at least for one winter month, Stevens is able to serve the Addison Country on several fronts. He contributes to the agricultural community and local college scene, all the while teaching and learning from students, employees and customers. "I think I have something to offer that might be of benefit to others," he said. "I love sharing my experiences."

J-Term à la carte: students pick their specials





Kim Bowker

Middlebury Students learn practical skills as well as academics by signing up for workshops during J-Term. On Tuesday afternoon, students were instructed in ski and snowboard tuning and maintenance by Kevin Peckham '99.5 (left) and became certified in CPR in Hepburn lounge (right).

J-Term proposes that filling a Midd-kid's day with a less traditional curriculum will inspire him or her to seek out interesting ways of filling it. The best way to see this theory in action is through the unique J-Term classes and workshops — a combination of practical and transcendental classes all aimed at bettering the students who choose to participate. This year's courses taught by visiting professors and workshops filled to capacity range from "The Art of Bicycle Maintenance" to "Arachnophobia, Arachnophobia." One of the first workshops to fill up was the "Introduction to Ice Climbing," a cheery reminder that the average Middlebury student does not fear even the harshest of winter climates. Here is an introduction to some of the more innovative curricular and extracurricular activities, some of which are still open to faculty, staff and students.

Workshops

Cricket for the Clueless:

This workshop aims to publicize the internationally popular sport of cricket in the Middlebury community. Students Owais Gilani '08 and Dhruv Dharnidharka '09 are the instructors, teaching interested students how to play and enjoy the game. Those students who show real promise will be eligible candidates for the Middlebury College Cricket Club Team. This workshop could count as a PE credit as long as the requirements for attendance are fulfilled.

Establishing Credit and How to Manage Your Account:

For those clueless consumers slightly frightened by their own power with a credit card, have no fear. Here you will learn to understand the consumer loan and credit card application process, at the same time receiving the inside scoop on a bank's analytical process. An instructor from the National Bank of Middlebury will teach all of these essentials, as well as guide you on how to establish a credit history and manage an enviable credit rating. The task of managing your bank account will be discussed and hopefully conquered. You will leave convinced of the importance of record keeping, capable of balancing your statement and a soon-to-be pro at Telebank and Online Banking.

Art of Home Brewing – Dank Microbrews:

College and beer. There is no need to stress the connection further. Why not learn to produce some of the sought-after stuff on your own? You just might make more friends! This hands-on workshop, taught by Matthew Osterman '07 and Joe Powers '06 promises to teach you everything you need to know about home beer brewing, starting with the materials needed for the actual process itself. Aside from learning to brew your own beer, each class will introduce you to the taste and history of different types of beer. Each wannabe brewer will participate in the brewing of four different batches of beer, culminating in the creation of 12 absolutely new beers made from scratch by each student. Additionally, the new brewers will leave with what will undoubtedly be a deeper and more sincere appreciation of beer and its history. For this, as in all of the alcohol-related workshops, attendees must be 21 years old. IDs are checked at the time of sign-up and again at the first class.

Korea 101: An introduction to Korean Culture, Language and Cuisine:

Split into two parts, this workshop begins with an introduction to the Korean language and moves into cooking-focused classes. Students will leave with basic conversational and survival phrases, as well as with an understanding of traditional Korean cuisine. The proposed meals range from dishes like kalbi, (Korean barbeque sauce) ribs to kimchi, (spicy pickled cabbages). One will be able to converse, survive and be a foodie in Korea, all thanks to the efforts of instructor Sarah Kim '07. More importantly, whether previously interested in modern Korean culture or not, workshop attendees will hopefully gain a special appreciation from this hands-on introduction.

Courses

Big Noise

Look out Mozart: co-taught by Crispin Butler, the laboratory supervisor for the Physics Department at Middlebury, and Visiting Instructor Jessica Nissen '90, an artist who lives and works in New York City, this J-Term class, is now in its second year and is making itself heard across campus. Students first study the basics of sound, sculpture, electronics and performance. armed with that knowledge, each student next builds an amplification system and gathers objects to serve as instruments. At the end of the month students debut their creative sound systems at a final presentation/performance. So. if your neighbor plays his or her music so loud it sounds like it is coming from your own speakers, he is probably enrolled in this course this month. Hopefully time in this class will keep his own "big noise" down to a minimum. Concert-goers beware: No prior music experience was required to enroll.

Arachnophobia, Arachnophilia

This interdisciplinary course examines why the arachnid family, which includes spiders, scorpions and tarantulas, elicits "irrational reactions" from the human species. Whether you see them as terrifying (like the 1990 movie "*Arachnophobia*") or inspiring (think "*Charlotte's Web*"), there is a proliferation of arachnids in stories and images throughout history. Says Professor of Biology Tom Root, whose research focuses on arachnid behavior, "My goal for the course is to have students understand why arachnids are both loved and feared in different cultures." The class will explore the duality of the simultaneously repulsive and exalted arachnid and the differing psychological reactions these eight-legged creatures evoke. The course begins with an introduction to the arachnid's natural history and historical portrayals, moving to an examination of the role of arachnids in literature, mythology, music, film and art.

Katrina and Its Aftermath: A Service Learning Course

This course, organized and taught by Associate Professor of American Literature Will Nash, seeks to literally break students out of the Middlebury "bubble" and put them on the scene of one of the most major events in recent U.S. history. The most unique aspect of the course is a weeklong trip to New Orleans where students will take part in an education project at a public high school as well as help with community relief efforts. Before departing for New Orleans (where January temperatures average a balmy 52 degrees) students will study issues of urban planning, social and environmental justice, educational policy and the cultural impact of Hurricane Katrina on the city of New Orleans. Coursework includes articles and other journalistic coverage as well as Tom Piazza's "*Why New Orleans Matters*". Senior Emily Egginton will use the course as a starting point for her independent project and is most interested in environmental aspects, such as coastal erosion and water, soil and air quality. "But," she adds, "the class will also examine the city from a social and cultural perspective, particularly since the reconstruction of New Orleans will require an interdisciplinary approach." When asked why they enrolled in the course, students responded, "Because I wanted to make a difference for someone affected by Katrina." Adds Nash, "I share that hope."

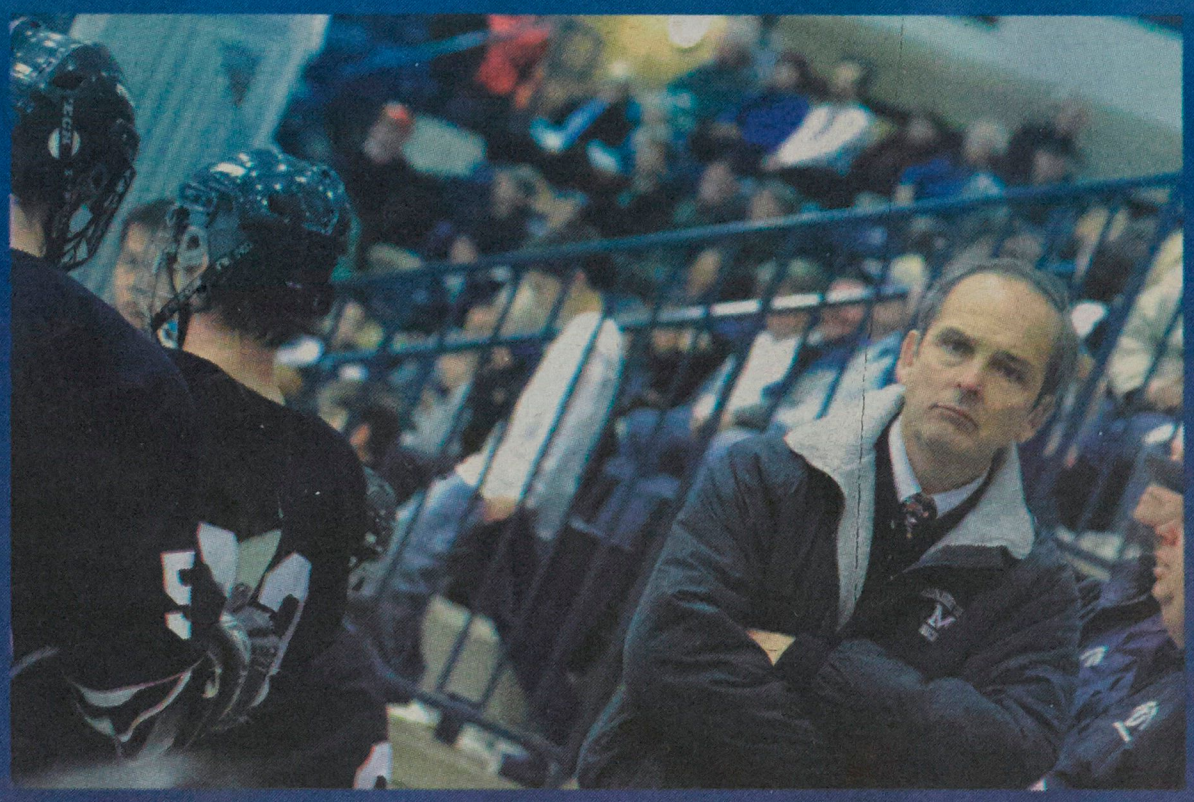
The History of The American Negro Spiritual and Its Influence On Western Civilization

This exceedingly popular J-Term class is taught by beloved Twilight Artist-in-Residence Francois Clemmons and enrolls almost 30 students each year. The course focuses on influences, changes and trends in the American Negro spiritual, and students are encouraged to combine modern-day hip-hop with traditional spirituals to create what Clemmons calls "unique and…insightful compositions." In addition to regular class hours, students rehearse with the community chorus throughout the month in preparation for a final performance at the Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast. Says first-year Kevin O'Rourke, "Simply put, Francois Clemmons is the diva-man. The class is nothing less than a perfect blend of hearty laughter and emotional frankness, just like its professor." Says Clemmons, "It's great to see so many 'non-singers' trying and enjoying singing…The event we put together for our MLK concert will be remembered by many students for its uniqueness and for community involvement for years to come. The joy that this brings to me keeps me 'high' for the whole month of January."

— By Mallika Rao and Rachel Durfee

Middlebury Hockey Br

reaks the Ice



Middlebury d. Tufts 4-1
Middlebury d. Connecticut College 7-1
Middlebury d. Norwich 4-3
Middlebury d. Plattsburg 3-2
Middlebury d. Southern Maine 3-1
Middlebury d. Salem State 3-0
Middlebury t. Plattsburgh 3-3
Middlebury d. Babson 6-1
Middlebury d. Amherst 4-1
Middlebury d. Skidmore 8-2
Middlebury d. Castleton 6-1
Middlebury d. Williams 5-2

Middlebury currently holds an 11-0-1 record and will face both Colby and Bowdoin this weekend.

photos by Albert Bitici
layout by Jay Dolan

BY MATT KUNZWEILER

Everyone hypes J-Term, says it's ridiculous, says the scene is out-of-control, says (to use the parlance of preppy kids trying to sound ethnic) "the parties are off the proverbial hizzle." But no. J-Term is little more than an extended weekend in Vermont's most godforsaken month, during which students merely increase the frequency of their drunkenness, making no attempt to improve the prevailing attitude responsible for this campus scene being so…well…monotonous.

The truth is, though politically liberal, this campus is rigidly conservative in its "chillin" and partying. Sure, there are exceptions, but I'm talking about the larger community. Even when students swig down can after can of Busch Light and jive mechanically on the McCullough dance floor, things are just flat awkward. And when someone asks me, "Wasn't that social house party rad?" — my answer is, "No, it was a windowless room that smelled like egg and bile."

But I think I've found the remedy, the ideal way to save J-Term from the uptight banalities of years past. And it's not Jäger or speed. It's The Darkness, the British glam-rock band that brings searing falsettos, safari-print cat-suits, indulgent guitar work and, most importantly, Excess, back to the mainstream. It's a Queen-meets-Spinal Tap concoction that disbands self-consciousness and self-restraint in its musicians and listeners alike. If we could all just listen to The Darkness' new album — "One Way Ticket to Hell…and Back" — I think J-Term might actually live up to its reputation.

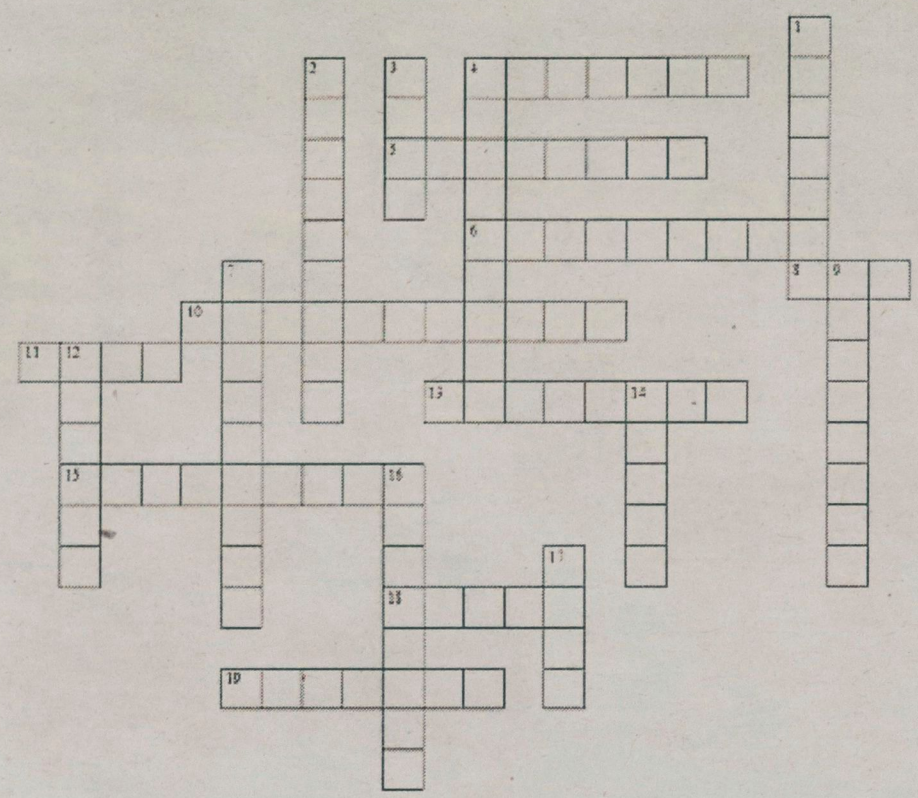
Let's just say, for the sake of convenience, that a capella is the symptom of all things deficient with Middlebury's scene. You may already know my opinion of a capella: it's about as uncomfortable to witness as a two-man luge. But The Darkness is the perfect rebuttal. For backing, they don't rely on a small posse of beat-boxing college students who were over-encouraged during their high school musicals. No, The Darkness employs cappella galore: an orchestra, pan flutes, bagpipes, a Mini-Moog, tubular bells, tambourines, keys… and of course, guitars, bass, drums and an electric sitar.

I believe that the ethos of "One Way Ticket" is the missing link between the current Middlebury parties and the enviable ragers of which we are capable. Lead singer and guitarist Justin Hawkins asks us to realize our inner-David St. Hubbins, to self-actualize in the most overabundant and uninhibited ways possible. With the inspiration of The Darkness, maybe the sleazy pick-up lines on campus would sound less like "Wanna come back to my room and hear me play 'Redemption Song' on my acoustic guitar?" and more like, "Baby, my sign might be Gemini, but I'm hung like Taurus." Which would be an improvement…because no one wants to hear you play "Redemption Song."

Last year, my 21st birthday fell on the third-to-last day of J-Term, and some friends decided to throw me a surprise party…. After being force-served Cap'n Mo at the gun barrels of peer pressure, I was sent into the next room, where an inflatable kiddie-pool filled with Jell-O awaited. Then the sloppy wrestlin' began. By the end there was Jell-O on the ceiling and I had almost broken my shoulder. It was epic, to say the least. But one thing all of us Jell-O wrestlers witnessed before entering the ring was The Darkness poster hanging in the anteroom, which preached absurdity and reckless abandon, told us to buck the hum-drumness of J-Term and Midd life, at large. And it sure worked.

So, even if you don't listen to the album, at least adopt The Darkness' mentality — because on your deathbed you won't say, "I wish I played more Madden 05 during J-Term."

J-Term: Winter Wonderland



ACROSS

4 Over-21 workshop for the creative drunk
5 Vail in Vermont
6 Learn elections with a former Pres
8 It's not just for beverages
10 Learn to capture Vermont's winter scenery
11 Comes in white and yellow alternatives
13 Catch your own dinner with a successful knot
15 Do you want this workshop steamed or fried?
18 You'll finally have the time to stand in line for this gourmet meal
19 Not just for hockey players

DOWN

1 You can't learn this at summer language school
2 A "sport" for fantasy lovers
3 What dogsled driver says to dogs
4 You might slip and bruise on McCullough beach
7 Release the "love enzyme" through this workshop
9 Commons-sponsored high school flashback
12 Skiing for aerophobics
14 Winter shelter outside your dorm
16 An unconventional way to use your dining hall tray
17 Classy alternative to beer

answers on page 20

World Briefs

— By Caroline Vial

Peace my friend, Adopt a Carrot...

Is your darling a vegetarian? Make him/her happy: adopt a vegetable. As most people know, we cannot begin counting the varieties that are slowly extinguishing. Save these endangered species by placing them in a safe haven, a grain conservation bank. For about 12 British Pounds (21 USD), you can participate during a year in the sponsorship of a kidney bean, a turnip or a head of cabbage (but certainly not tomatoes, sorry) at the Heritage Seed Library. For donations and adoption certificates, visit: http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk.

— *Courrier International*, Paris

Assault weapons: a gift with an aim

A Kalachnikov rifle? What a great Holiday gift! If it weighs about 25 pounds, donate your AK-47 to villagers in Sierra Leone. Blacksmiths and steelworkers will transform the weapon into farming instruments. A "Kalach" helps to create hoes and axes, while a rocket-launcher (55 pounds) will turn into picks and sickles. Are you in funding? Offer a tank. For 1000 pounds, you will give five blacksmiths a year's worth of work. With a pilot chart, they will have enough to make 3000 tools. Before recycling, the weapons are neutralized by the U.N. peacekeeping forces. Look for yourself at http://goodgifts.org.

— *The Sunday Independent*, Johannesburg

Buddha, the return

Ram Bahadur Bamkjan, 15, had a drink not eaten for six months. He has not drunk either, nor has he moved a hair. For a semester, Bamkjan has meditated beneath a tree, in the lotus position. Thousands of pilgrims who have gathered to see the adolescent are convinced: the prodigy is a reincarnation of Buddha. Local authorities are more skeptical, suspecting Bamkjan of indulging at nighttime, after his followers place a screen in front of his retreat. The Nepalese Royal Academy of Sciences and Technologies will send scientists to examine him. The police have investigated; the reincarnated Buddha has not spoken a word. Since he has entered meditation, only snake bites seem to have loosened his teeth.

— *BBC news Online*, London

WINNERS & LOSERS

What's hot and what's not on campus and in pop culture? *The Campus* gives its weekly report.

Cowboy lovers	Nick and Jessica
"Brokeback Mountain" is amazing. And so are cowboy hats. And Heath and Jake.	Not cowboys. And no longer lovers.
Not needing diapers at age 20	Pooping on a bus
Mommy, wow! I'm a big kid now.	You — yes, you, the one who pooped on the bus so that now no one wants to bus Midd-kids to parties. You're a party pooper.
Crossword Puzzles	Sudoku
Classic. Simple. Good. See above.	Why is it suddenly everywhere?!? And when did math become fun?

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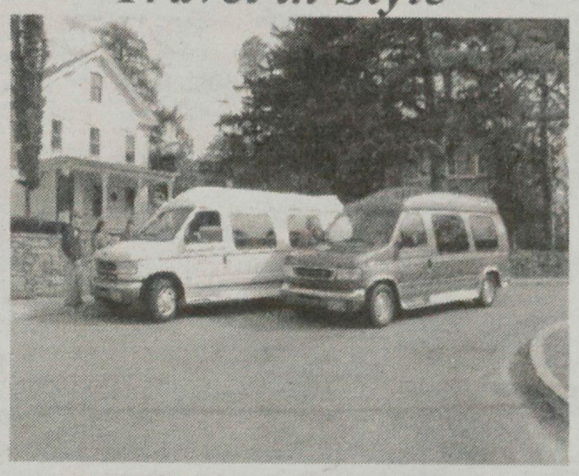

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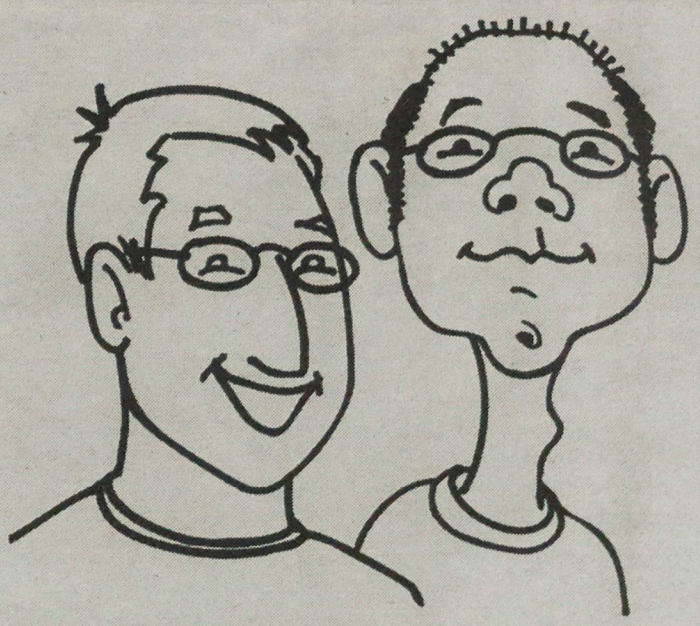

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SUDOKU by Mary Claire Evans

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arts

17
SPOTLIGHT ON GEOF PRYSIRR
L.A. ACTOR SHINES LIGHT ON A DIFFERENT SIDE OF DRAMA

17
"BROKEBACK MOUTAIN" STANDS TALL
STORY OF COWBOY LOVERS TRANSCENDS THE TRITE, RECEIVES RAVE REVIEW

18
ART AGAINST AMERICA
ARTS EDITOR REFLECTS ON LONDON EXHIBITION

'The Bewitched' to enchant at ACTF

Fall production heads to regional theatre competition

By Sara Jameson
Staff Writer

January is an exciting month for the cast and crew of "The Bewitched" as they prepare to take their show to the American College Theatre Festival (ACTF). When the show went up this fall, it stunned viewers with its intense content, witty humor and tremendous acting. This February, the cast will pack up and travel to ACTF, a competition sponsored by The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and made up of seven regions of competing colleges across the country. As accommodating these many actors, sets and plays is an enormous task, every year the festival finds a new host venue. This year the job falls to Fitchburg State College in Massachusetts.

To compete at ACTF, a college or university must enter a production into the competition during a calendar year. Two regional judges who evaluate all the productions entering the regional competition first evaluate each specific play. This season, 21 productions entered the contest and only six, including "The Bewitched," were chosen to perform at the festival. Four national judges then watch each of the chosen performances and subsequently determine the four to six productions to be presented at The Kennedy Center in April. The director of "The Bewitched," Richard Romagnoli, said, "The competition is very stiff: liberal arts programs like ours compete against BFA conservatory programs and large state universities."

Romagnoli, however, is not too worried. He said, "We've done very well in the past. Each time we've entered, we've been invited to the regionals and twice have had productions presented at the Kennedy Center."

Also held during ACTF is the Irene Ryan acting competition — named after the actress who played Granny in the TV show "Beverly Hillbillies." The winner of this honor receives a sizable cash award to be used for graduate study in any field. One-hundred-fifty student actors and their scene partners will participate in this regional competition. On the regional level, the actors must survive a general, semi-final and final audition before only two are selected to go to the Kennedy Center. There, they will compete against 14 other actors from across the country.

Each actor must prepare two two-minute dramatic scenes and a one-minute monologue. "The judges look for honesty, vulnerability, technical skill (i.e. voice and movement), comic timing and material which is age-appropriate," explained Romagnoli. "Then there is the intangible criterion — taste. Some material may seem too physically violent or vulgar for some judges, while others may be offended by the banality of material taken from 'boulevard' theatre." Romagnoli adds, "The actors shouldn't pick material which they think will please the judges, but should be guided by their aesthetic sensibility, fueled by their passion — material that provides a little view into that small part of the soul, and which forces everyone to take note — 'attention must be paid.'"

Middlebury's actor nominations include the following: Bill Army '07, Laura Harris '07 and Alec Strum '08 from "The Bewitched"; Rebecca Kanengiser '05.5 from Claudio Medeiros' "Necessary Targets"; and Retta Leaphart '06 from Isabel Mettier Professor of Theatre Doug Sprigg's production of "Last Night At Ballyhoo." Middlebury has had five students compete at the national level, including Aidan Sullivan '95 and Claudio Medeirios, who is now a member of the theatre department's faculty, both of whom were national finalists.

As the regional judges have already favorably acknowledged the play, its performance in the festival bodes well. Romagnoli doesn't know exactly how "The Bewitched" will be received, but he believes that the issues that the playwright raises are relevant. He expressed his wish that the audience will relate to the play on a higher level. "Of course I hope people are moved to laughter, and to pity the plight of the protagonist, but also to recognize that the blind acceptance of institutional principles and practices is the surest path towards creating a lobotomized society. The peasants in the play revolt against their oppressors, but when presented with freedom and the possibility of creating an egalitarian society, they cower and bleat like sheep!"

Everyone is very excited about going to the festival and sharing with other schools an example of the work done at Middlebury. —Richard Romagnoli, professor of Theatre

When asked if there were going to be many alterations to the play before its next performance, Romagnoli said, "I don't anticipate making any major changes. Performing in a different proscenium arch theatre seating 1200 people will require logistical changes regarding set changes, and the elephant's head at the end will be considerably more theatrical. But not much beyond that." As a director, he states that he was very happy with the performances in the original production and what he really wants is for the actors to have some "serious fun." There will not even be full company calls until about 10 days before they leave for the festival. "We don't want them to peak too early," explains Romagnoli. There will be a full dress rehearsal at 8 p.m. in Wright Theater on Monday, Jan. 30, to which all are invited.

Harris, acting as the Queen Mother in the play, commented that she is interested to see how it will feel to begin rehearsing a show that has essentially already wrapped. "I've never been in this position before," Harris explained. "I'm curious about how the cast will fall back into their character and how the whole experience of re-immersing ourselves in this world of Carlos II et al. will be."

Strum, who plays Motilla/Phillip IV, is also ready for the challenge. "I'm excited," he said. "It's an honor to be going to the regional festival and it would be absolutely amazing to get a chance to perform at the Kennedy Center."

It seems as though this re-immersion into "The Bewitched" is being approached with energy and enthusiasm. As Romagnoli said, "Everyone involved is very excited about going to the festival and sharing with other schools an example of the work done at Middlebury. We are proud, but also humbled to have been chosen — there were a lot of good productions that weren't — we're very grateful for this opportunity."

Strum is also thankful for such an exciting opportunity, especially in regards to presenting the play: "I love the show, and it's been really fascinating to be a part of it. I think the play itself, regardless of the quality of our particular production, deserves attention, and I'm glad it's getting it."

With not much time left, the cast and crew of "The Bewitched" prepare for the play's second unveiling, one that could lead them beyond even Fitchburg, Mass. to Washington D.C. and to a possible national title.

"Bewitched" casts a spell

Courtesy

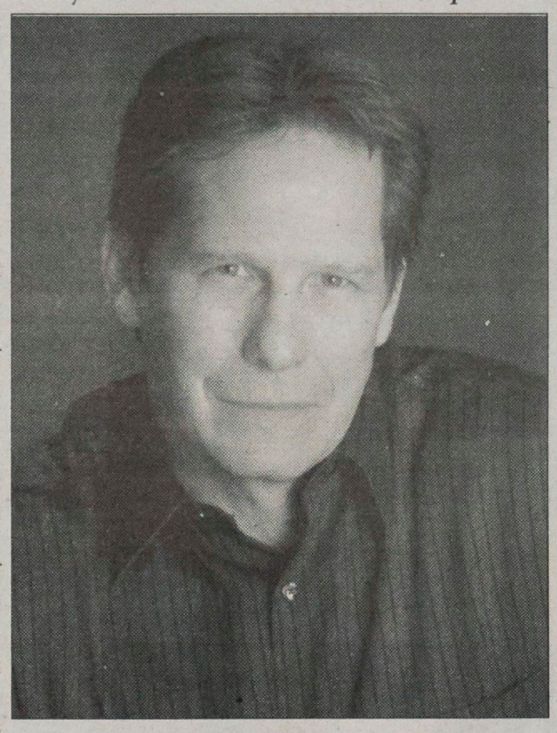
Rehearsing for their upcoming performance at the American College Theatre Festival (ACTF), the cast and crew of "The Bewitched" prepare to face regional competitors. ACTF Judges attended the production's original performance, selecting it to compete in the festival.

Spotlight on...Geof Prysirr

Geof Prysirr is a professional acting coach, actor and writer from Los Angeles, Calf. This January, he joins the Middlebury community to teach the class "Acting for Film and Television."

The Middlebury Campus: **What brings you to snowy Vermont?**

Geof Prysirr: I became familiar with the school. I like the school, I find the student body interesting and I became interested in being able to bring something to the campus, based on the work that I do. I have taught in many universities over the years. I haven't taught in one recently because I've been doing more professional work, but the opportunity presented itself. I spoke to the dean of your curriculum, and he presented two different types of courses I was very interested in teaching. One of them he said he really wanted, and the other he said he really liked, but he thought it would be better to bring the more easy acceptable class first, and the other course he found very interesting but he said that if I wanted to come back again, that could be a class I could teach.



The Campus: **What was that other class that he was interested in?**

GP: Actually, it was a kind of study of self. A course that would've been exploring the human instrument from a vocal, physical and emotional perspective, and learning how it works in the processes of communication. It would cross over into psychology, philosophy, acting and into basically exploring *being,* and what it means and could mean in the way we relate. We all have something we want to say: how do we do it most effectively? We exercise our bodies, we exercise our minds, but we never really work instrumentally.

The Campus: **It seems similar to acting.**

GP: It is — the acting work I deal with is a bit different than what's traditionally taught, and it comes from creating a center of self. What is it to express a clarity of self, of one's emotional being? If you can express a clarity of self, what do you do to interfere with it to create personal conflict? We're always looking at the conflict in something — what makes it difficult to do something. Think of reality TV: it's all about watching people struggle in the most embarrassing, degrading ways. We don't watch reality TV to see someone be successful: we watch them struggle to get to some eventual goal in themselves. That's why I'm interested in studying acting, in studying behavioral skills.

The Campus: **What differences do you see in acting for the stage and acting for the screen?**

GP: When you act for the stage, there's a much bigger externalization of the representation of what one experiences. There's a lot of explanation that takes place throughout a play. As people communicate, they're explaining themselves to each other. In a film, it's a visual medium, first and foremost — the language becomes secondary. You have lines that are profound but what you really are doing is having an observational experience of how people are relating to each other from an internal standpoint. Everything becomes much smaller. Everything becomes more compact. Most of the work that takes place in great film work takes place in someone's eyes. Think of every great film you're ever seen. When you're in a close-up: that's the money shot. When you look into someone's eyes, you get the clarity of their experience at that moment. As Michael Caine said in his autobiography: when you see someone in film, you rarely see them blink. You'll also see the lips being separated, not together. When you have your lips separated, it's very reminiscent of something we did at one point in our lives, when we were babies. You'll notice: when you open your mouth, your eyes automatically open. It shows a moment of slight wonderment. It keeps an open line of communication.

— **Bri Cavallaro**

WRMC 91.1 FM *On Rotation*

By Benjamin Golze

The beginning of the year is the time when lazy music writers across the country take the easy way out for one more week by looking back at the year gone by, and then making wild, unsubstantiated claims about the next year's trends. So, without further ado, I present the all-inclusive guide to everything you need to know about music in 2005 and 2006.

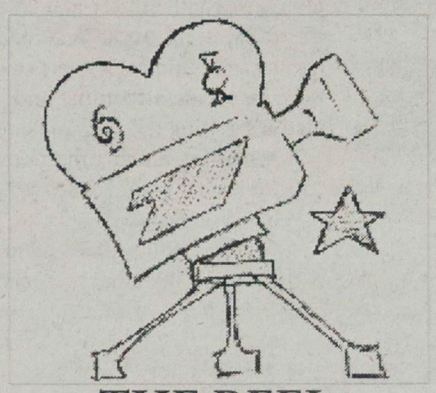
The biggest music news story of 2005 was, once again, the record industry giving a big "Up Yours!" to the music — consuming public. The copy protection on Sony BMG's CDs allows only the owner of the album to rip the music and play it on his or her personal computer. In the process, however, the copy protection software imbeds itself as a "rootkit" within the computer's operating system, making it extremely difficult to remove and opening up avenues for viral attacks. It's like paying $20 (the price of the Foo Fighters album) for a swift kick in the pants.

This is just another way that the big players in the recording industry are nailing the lids of their coffins shut. CD sales have tumbled for the fourth straight year while online music sales skyrocketed over 2004. The artists themselves are embracing digital music by posting free MP3 tracks from their newest albums or even making whole live albums available online. The idea behind this being that rational people want to listen to an artist before they decide to buy the music.

For groups that don't get a lot of airplay on MTV or Clear Channel radio stations, the primary conduit of exposure to their music is through personal recommendation. In this day and age, the young'uns are using a newfangled system called the Internet for the vast majority of their communication, be it instant messaging or e-mail. So doesn't it make sense that the music format that is shared the most, and leads to the most buying decisions, is digital?

According to Metacritic.com, which calculates cumulative scores from a large number of prominent music critics, My Morning Jacket's latest album, "Z", was the second best album of 2005. (For the curious, "Illinois" by Sufjan Stevens came in at number one). For on-the-cusp independent records like "Z" that expect to reach a bigger audience than the standard indie release, a major distributor like Sony BMG is a must, which puts the group in a sticky situation. The distributor only makes money from CD sales, so it's in their interest to provide extensive copy protection. ATO, My Morning Jacket's record label, claims that it did not give permission for any copy protection to be used, and Sony BMG claims it didn't need any. Meanwhile, the copy-protected ripped files cannot be played in iTunes or on an iPod. iTunes store purchases cannot be played on all devices or programs. Music fans get mad and throw things. The band is, in a word, screwed.

Sony BMG is in the process of settling a class action lawsuit concerning privacy invasion, but the story has revealed what will be one of the main issues in the next year — the effects of Apple's consolidation of the digital music market. Incompatibility with their iPods was the real problem with the copy-protected CDs for many people before the PC security issue was revealed. If other companies fail to market an alternative to the ever-popular iPod, then the clash between Apple and music distributors is going to result in a downward spiral of an increasingly hard line by distributors, more music downloads and fewer CD sales. Based on the rabid crowds I saw lining up to buy socks for their iPods over break, it is time for companies like Creative to saddle up.



THE REEL CRITIC

BY JUSTINE KATZENBACH

MOVIE | BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
DIRECTOR | ANG LEE
STARRING | HEATH LEDGER, JAKE GYLLENHAAL

"Brokeback Mountain" tells the tragic story of two cowboys who meet and fall in love while ranching sheep in the mountains of Wyoming during the summer of 1963. Ennis Del Mar (Heath Ledger), an introverted and simple man, makes every effort to keep to himself. Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal), his companion on the journey, is as outgoing and engaging as Ennis is quiet. Isolated in the wilderness, the differences in their personalities are soon overcome as Ennis and Jack begin a uniquely beautiful relationship framed by the Wyoming backdrop, which echoes their every action.

Filled with whiskey and alone, they fall into their tent one night and only minutes later begin an affair which will last for the next 20 years. What becomes immediately apparent is both cowboys' sense of discomfort and embarrassment. The rather graphic sex scene is awkward and rushed. As they hurry through the act it is as if the faster it is over the quicker they can forget the fact that they have made love. The next afternoon, after a day of avoiding each other and tending to their flock of sheep, Jack finally confronts Ennis, telling him that no one has to know about the occurrences of the previous night. As Ennis looks directly into his lover's eyes, he tells him with conviction that he is "no queer," to which Jack responds "Me neither."

As the summer comes to a close and Ennis and Jack finally leave the quiet of Brokeback Mountain, they are also forced to leave behind the truth of who they are. Ennis returns to his home in Wyoming, where he marries his longstanding girlfriend, Alma (Michelle Williams), and has two daughters. Jack moves back to Texas, attempting to make a living in the rodeo, only to meet and marry the prominent and beautiful Lureen (Anne Hathaway), whose father owns an established farm-equipment store.

Despite the 14-hour drive between them, they are drawn back to each other after four years of separation. For the next 20 years they run off on their wives, telling them they have planned another "fishing trip." They find solace as they escape to the only place that will ever accept their relationship Brokeback Mountain. There, under the purple and green Wyoming sky, they ignore their separate lives and responsibilities and forget all truths except for the love between them.

The affair is self-destructive — the months of separation between them too difficult. As Jack dreams of building a cabin in Texas for himself and Ennis, the world remains completely at odds with the idea of the two lovers ever actually living a life together, and the results are eventually tragic. Despite hopes to unite in the world outside of the forest, they are safe only when hidden by the shadows of the overwhelming mountainside.

To say that "Brokeback Mountain" is a good film would not do it justice. The cowboy in American culture symbolizes all that is masculine. We are defined by this ranching, drinking, rough and dirty figure of a man, who rides horses through Western states, terrorizing all that falls in his way. He is the supposed definition of bravery, unrelenting in his solitary life, seeking only to live in the wild. He epitomizes our nation's dream of the American man. It is therefore truly revolutionary for American viewers to see the emblem of our nation's history portrayed as a homosexual — still just as brave and rough, but with a further dimension presented. "Brokeback Mountain" is an historically influential film because it forces Americans to examine the cowboy as a complex and realistic human being. Director Ang Lee aims to show the audience the tortured state of two men who live in a world of unrelenting chauvinism, yet whose love for each other will always be stronger than the hatred and evils with which they are confronted.

Dancing the night away

Courtesy

Performing together since 2000, the duet of Mark Stuver '98 and Rachael Lincoln comes to the CFA this Saturday at 8 p.m. to present several acclaimed comtemporary dance pieces. This January they are joint-teaching a class entitled "Mapping Two: Partnering in Dance," which explores the interaction of bodies and their journey through time and space. Stuver and Lincoln are both members of Project Bandaloop, which performed at Middlebury last year. The two have also created their own body of work that they have performed throughout San Francisco, in residency in Jackson, Wy., and now at Middlebury. In addition to their performance and J-Term class, they will also teach several master classes to interested students.

Editors' A&E picks
for the weeks of Jan. 12-26

12

PHILIP HAMILTON '82 PERFORMANCE
7:30-9:30 p.m. Dana Auditorium
Musician, composer and performer Philip Hamilton '82 is in residence at Middlebury this week as an Alexander Twilight Scholar. After graduating from Middlebury, Hamilton went on to the Berklee School of Music to release many a recording, collaborate with the likes of the Duke Ellington Orchestra, Steely Dan and Spryo Gyra and participate in musicals and dance performances across the country. During his four-day residence he has worked with students in both the dance and music departments. Tonight, he will be performing his largely jazz and world-music inspired pieces in Dana Auditorium.

14

IN CONCERT: MARK STUVER AND RACHAEL LINCOLN
8-10 p.m. Center for the Arts Dance Theatre
Mark Stuver '98 and Rachael Lincoln, San Francisco dance artists and winter-term visiting instructors, perform several acclaimed dance pieces this evening including "Remember This," a duet they have performed in the US, at the Dublin Fringe Festival and in Berlin. As members of Project Bandaloop, the thrillingly innovative company that danced while suspended from the roof of the new College library last fall, Stuver and Lincoln have created, worked and taught together since 2000. Don't miss this lively and evocative performance.

14

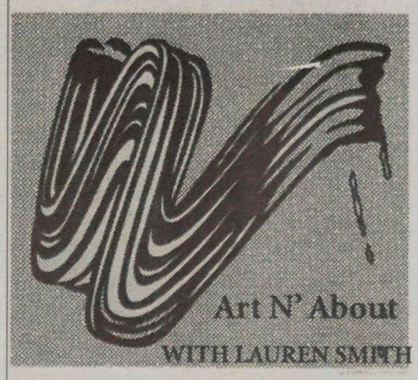
GOODBYE DRAGON INN
3-5:30 p.m. and 8-10:30 p.m. Dana Auditorium
Past, present and future come together in Goodbye, Dragon Inn, Ming-Liang Tsai's nostalgic homage and farewell to an era: Japanese tourist takes refuge from a rainstorm inside a once-popular movie theater, a decrepit old barn of a cinema that is screening a martial arts classic, King Hu's 1966 "Dragon Inn." Even with the rain pouring down outside, the film doesn't pull in much of an audience, and some of those who have turned up are less interested in the movie than in the possibility of meeting a stranger in the dark.

18

VACA OUTDOOR ART SHOW
8 p.m. Battel Beach
As part of Middlebury's "Get Outside Week," student-run VACA (Vitality of the Artistic Community) will host an outdoor art show. Also on display will be snow sculptures made by local elementary students.

20

PIANIST LEOPOLDO ERICE PERFORMS
8-10 p.m. Center for the Arts Concert Hall
Acclaimed Spanish pianist Leopoldo Erice will perform a concert of works by Mozart, Haydn and Schubert next Friday in the CFA Concert Hall. Winner of many prestigious competitions such as the Royale (1989), the Gregorio Baudot (1994) and the Infanta Cristina (1994, 1996, and 1998), Erice has performed extensively in Spain. He made his debut as a soloist with the Symphony Orchestra of the Royal Conservatory of Madrid in 1999uk and has also given recitals in the USA, Colombia, Panama, Lithuania, Germany and Italy.



WITH LAUREN SMITH

As an American studying in London for several months last year, I was exposed to harassment from my flatmates on everything from Bush's questionable relationship with Tony Blair to the way that American institutions like McDonalds and Burger King have made their way across the ocean. After a conversation on yet another negative aspect of American society, a particularly abusive flatmate practically ordered me to attend an exhibit of Paul McCarthy's work at the Whitechapel Gallery in southeast London. When I asked why, he mischievously replied, "You'll see."

And I did see. I saw detailed charcoal drawings of pirates who looked curiously like the ones on "The Pirates of the Caribbean" ride at Disney World wielding swords and genitalia in some sort of drunken orgy. I saw a life-size replica of the artist himself laid out on a lawn chair with no pants on, looking like the neighborhood pervert. After perusing the exhibit with alternate feelings of horror and amusement, I realized why I had been sent here. Under the guise of masturbating pirates, McCarthy was making a statement on America, or rather, the dark side of our consumer culture.

Paul McCarthy (b. 1945) is widely considered to be one of the most groundbreaking artists of this century. He first became known in the 1970s for his performance and film work, but during the 1990s, he extended his practice into sculptural figures and installations, which he continues today at his studio in Altadena, Calif. Most recently this translated into a much talked — about series of large inflatable sculptures outside the Tate Modern, featuring the face of Disney's Pinocchio — only with a phallus for his famous nose.

The exhibit "Lala Land Parody Paradise" uses the American myth of the heroic pirate popularized by such stories as Disney's "Pirates of the Caribbean" to explore American expansionism, greed and extreme conservatism by depicting America as a drunken, sexually perverse pirate who rapes and pillages. The exhibit, which ended Jan. 8, used drawings, sculpture and film to explore this theme.

This is not the first time McCarthy has used his work to critique American culture. In 2003, he exhibited in London at the commercial gallery Huaser and Wirth. He filmed a video in the gallery in which he wore an oversized "Dubya" novelty head and a new suit spotted with stains and food. After several minutes of nonsensical antics, he loses his head, which comes bouncing downstairs to the basement. There, "Bush" takes off his trousers and begins to use a power tool, only not in the way most of us would. One can guess what this act must signify.

Americans living in this decade face some pretty harsh criticisms, especially when traveling outside of the country. Perhaps my flatmate had bad intentions when he told me to see the exhibit, but I left the Whitechapel gallery quite satisfied. Sometimes you just have to laugh at yourself when things get tough, and I think that's exactly what McCarthy has done in his recent work.

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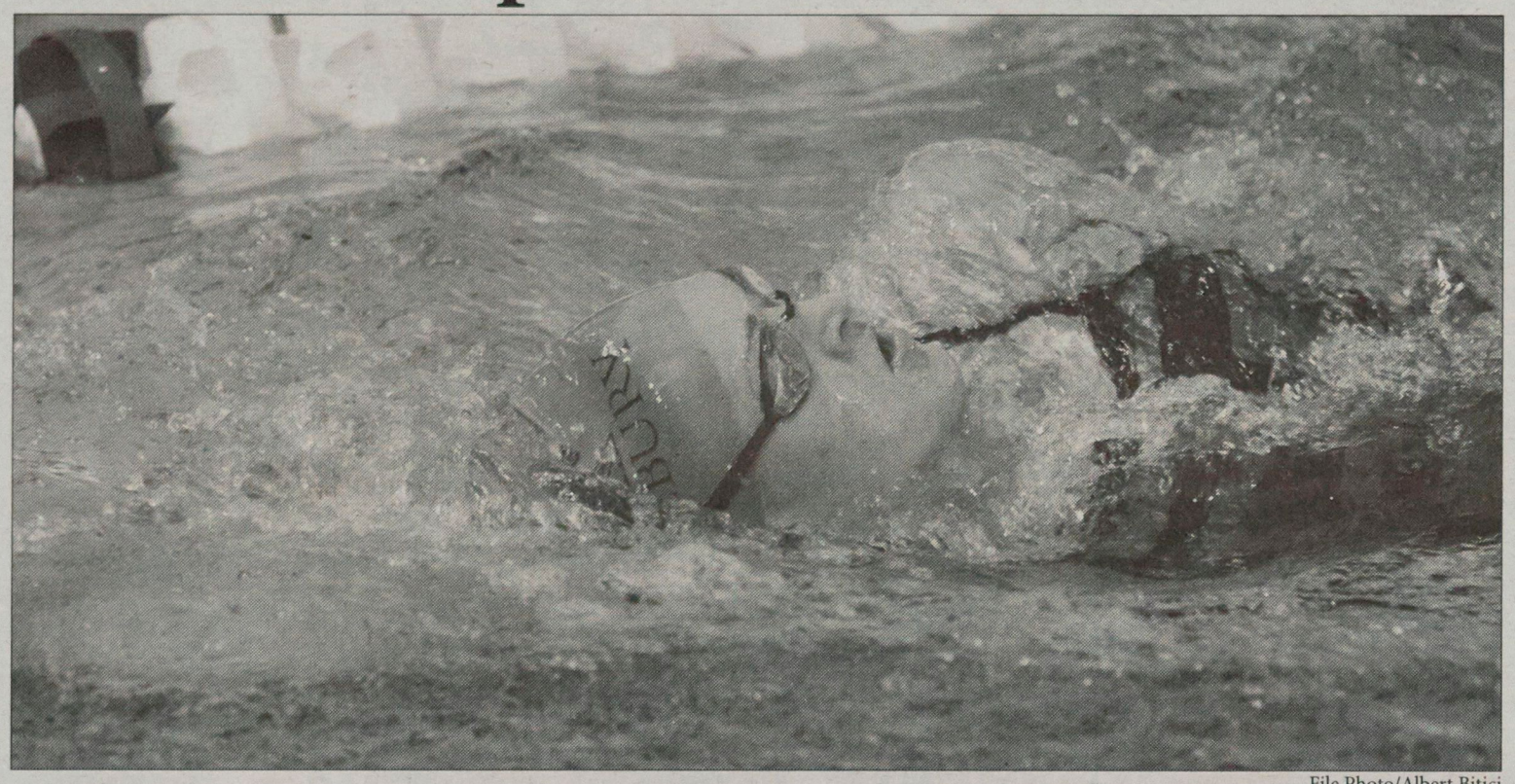
Panthers roll to an impressive 5-1 season mark

By Zamir Ahmed
Sports Editor



File Photo/Albert Bitici

The women's swimming and diving team easily defeated Colby on Jan. 7 162-117 and Bates on Jan. 8 146-108 to push its record to 5-1 on the year.

While most Middlebury students were enjoying a relaxing Winter Break at home, the women's swimming and diving team was training hard in Florida to stay in shape for the season. After returning to campus, the Panthers showed how much their hard work paid off, continuing their strong start to the season with a pair of wins over NESCAC rivals Colby and Bates last weekend. The victories pushed the Panthers to 5-1 on the year with four more meets before the NESCAC Championships.

On Jan. 7 the Panthers traveled up to Maine to take on the White Mules of Colby. Sparked by the return of a number of swimmers from abroad and illness, the team ran away with a convincing 194-87 victory. Leading the women with wins in multiple events were Sara Cowie '08, last year's All-American Marika Ross '08, first-year Catherine Suppan and diver Alanna Hanson '08.

Cowie won three events on the day, taking home the gold in the 200y with a time of 1:59.02, winning the 500y freestyle in a pool-record time of 5:09.92 and besting the previous pool-record in the 1000y freestyle by 15 seconds. In her first race back after illness, Ross won the 100y butterfly with a NCAA "B" qualifying time of 58.38 and added a victory in the 50y butterfly. Suppan had an impressive performance at the meet as well, prevailing in both the 500y IM and the 50y backstroke, winning that race in a school-record time of 27.90 seconds. The Panthers displayed their greatest strength as a team at the meet, their depth, as a number of other swimmers posted personal- and season-best times to dominate the competition.

"This is one of the best teams I've ever had at Middlebury," said Head Coach Peter Solomon. "We only get better each meet. We're gearing up for NESCACs which will be in a month. We're shooting for a second-place finish, going against Amherst for that spot, but we also want to make a run at Williams."

On Jan. 8, the team finished up its weekend road trip at Bates in a meet with very little drama. The Panthers got off to a hot start and never looked back to win by a score of 146-115, a score that was deceptively close. The Panthers won nine out of the first 10 events to put the meet out of reach and chose to stop placing so that they would not run up the score. Among the highlights of the meet was a pool-record time of 1:00.61 in the 100y IM for Suppan and dual wins for McKenna Moreau '06 in the 100y and 200y backstroke events.

The Panthers' next two meets will be at home as they take on Hamilton on Jan. 14 and Union on Jan. 21. The competitions will be the last chance for the team to prepare before it takes on archrival Williams, winner of the past five NESCAC Championships, in the last dual meet of the year.

"I'd be lying if I didn't say we wanted to beat Williams at the end of this month," said Solomon. "We want to close the gap on them and make them beat us."

With a win over the Ephs, the Panthers would establish themselves as the team to beat in the NESCACs, a position it has been working a long time to attain. With talented individuals throughout its ranks, the team may finally be ready to step up to the next level.

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Winter Wonderland Crossword Answers

Mush- what dogsled driver says to dogs
Nordic- skiing for acrophobics
Snow bowl- Vail in Vermont
Quidditch- a "sport" for book lovers
Broomball- you might slip and bruise on McCullough beach
Cook prom- Commons sponsored high school flashback
Brewing- over -21 workshop for the creative drunk
Chocolate- release the "love enzyme" through this workshop
Fly Tying- catch your own dinner with a successful knot
Ice- it's not just for beverages
Skating- not just for hockey players
Dolci- you'll finally have the time to stand in line for this gourmet meal
McCardell- Learn elections with a former Pres
Dumplings- steamed or fried?
Photography- learn to capture Vermont's winter scenery
Igloo- winter shelter outside your dorm
Snow- don't eat this yellow
Swahili- you can't learn this at summer language school

Women's hoops stays hot over Winter Break

By Sarah Luehrman
Staff Writer

As January begins, the 10-2 Middlebury women's basketball team charges ahead on its best start in four years. "We have great senior leadership and a lot of depth," comments head coach Noreen Pecsok on the team's midseason status. "And that should serve us well going into league play."

The beginning of December brought one of the Panthers' closest games so far this season when they faced Union, a team that narrowly defeated them last year, in Pepin Gymnasium. Union fouls on Middlebury began to add up early in the first half, allowing the Panthers to build their lead from the free throw line. Though Middlebury sank 11 free throws during the first half and Union was never awarded a single opportunity at the line, the home team held only a slim 24-22 lead at halftime.

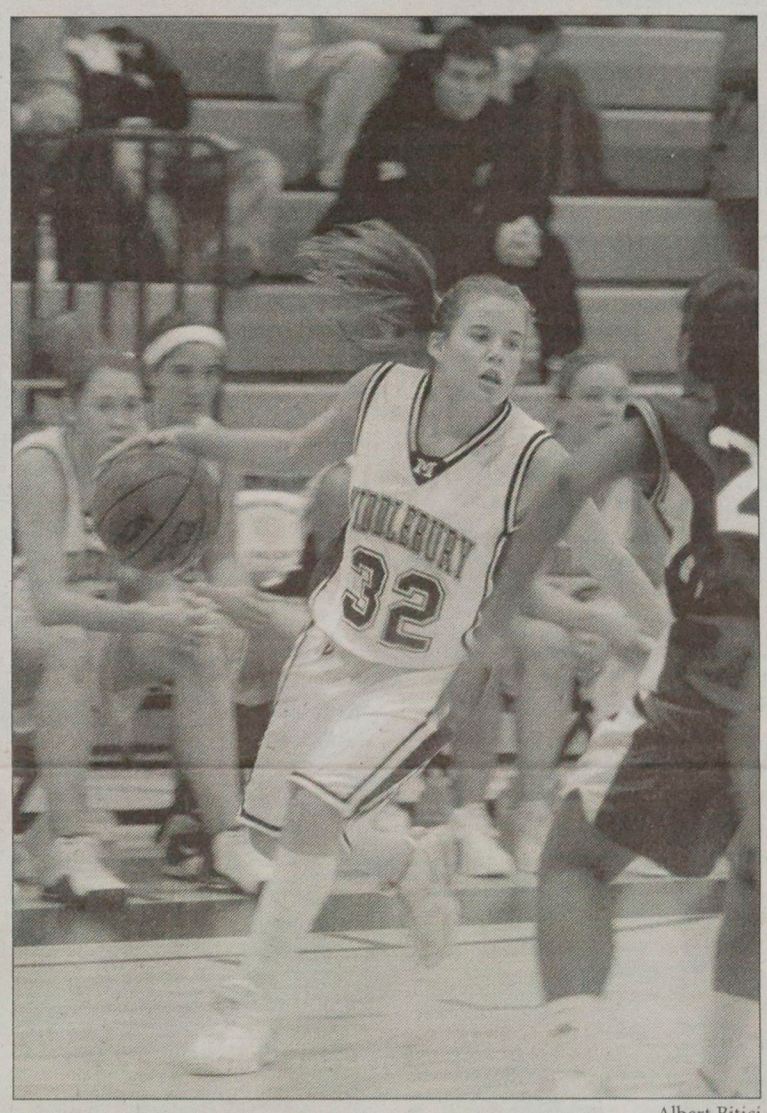
The Panthers maintained their advantage, but only narrowly, until Union tied the game at 40-40 with five minutes left. The clock ran down as Middlebury tried furiously to make a decisive break, and in the last minute of the game, they managed to pull ahead to a 48-45 lead. With mere seconds remaining, Union looked to sink a three-point shot to send the game into overtime, though they had been unsuccessful in scoring a single three all evening. The shot missed the basket, Middlebury snagged the rebound, and one final Union foul with 00:12 on the clock sent Emily Johnson '09 to the freethrow line, where she sealed the win at 49-45. Without their 19-9 advantage from the line, the Panthers would have had a hard time with Union, as the latter's shooting percentage from the floor bested theirs throughout the game. Leading the offense for the night were Johnson with 9 points followed by Katie Fisher '08 with 8.

Two away games before a long winter break brought the Panthers two more victories and built their record to 8-1. They first faced the Panthers of Plymouth State University, whom they bested 75-64. Fisher scored a game-high 17 points with Katie Fehsenfeld '06 close behind with 14, Maryann Verzosa '06 with 11, and Alanna Young '08 and Ashley Barron '09 each with 10. Plymouth State made a surprising comeback from an 11-point deficit in the first half and closed the margin to 25-24 as the clock ran out. Middlebury built their slim lead consistently during the second half and pulled away from their opponents decisively without looking back. Finally, the Panthers traveled to Green Mountain and came away with a 67-26 win. Jennifer Kelleher '08 led the offense with 12 points, and Young and Fisher supported her with eight each.

Upon their return from break, the Panthers claimed their sixth straight victory on their home court when they faced Clarkson University, slightly rusty after 29 days without a game. Pecsok noted that though the team had trouble shooting the ball, their "defense and aggressiveness were very good." Indeed, the home team's accuracy struggled from the floor, though they never allowed their opponents a lead. During the second half of the game, Middlebury increased their 8 point halftime lead to 18 with 8 minutes remaining. Clarkson managed to close the margin to 10, but they would come no closer to victory, and Middlebury ended the game 52-37. "Our press was great, especially in the second half," commented captain Lacey Hebert '06. "It gave us a chance to steal the ball, which always swings the momentum in our favor." Fisher scored a game-high 9 points, and Erin Lackey '08 and Barron each scored 8.

Middlebury's winning streak came to an unfortunate halt at Rensselaer, "a very good team" according to Pecsok, falling 60-54. Though they came back from a seven-point deficit at halftime to a single point score margin in the second half, RPI increased their advantage for the remainder of the game. The team's overall accuracy struggled, but Fisher's 12 points and Young's eight points and 14 rebounds bolstered their offense.

The Panthers' offense finally made a comeback Tuesday night in their home victory against Colby Sawyer, 66-62. Middlebury trailed for most of the first half, their accuracy from the floor struggling once again but they managed to close the score margin to a single point at the half. With help from two three-point shots from Hebert, they overtook the Chargers in the first five minutes of the second half. Though they maintained the advantage for most of the half, the Panthers found themselves hanging onto a slim two-point lead by the last minute of the game. After an intentional foul by Colby Sawyer, Johnson stepped up to the free throw line with seconds remaining and sank both her shots, solidifying the win. Captain Micaela McVary '06 paced the offense with 12 points. Aylie Baker '09 was close behind with 11. Middlebury will travel to Connecticut College and Wesleyan this weekend and will play Bates and Tufts at home the following weekend.



Albert Bitici
The women's basketball team is only one win shy of matching their win total from last year, starting 10-1 as NESCAC play is set to begin this week.

Squash status goes unnoticed

Continued from page 24

to recruit players and fight for the top spot in NESCAC squash tournament." This is the best year yet for Middlebury squash and the future looks bright.

First year players J.P. Sardi '09 and Gordon McMorris '08.5 have filled the number one and two spots, respectively. According to Nadas '06, "both have shown incredible maturity and great play on the squash court. Both of them will form the foundation of this team over the next four years." He says that Wieland, his co-captain is an "incredible competitor and always inspires other members of the team to take their game to another level like he does every weekend." And of course, there is Will Carroll '07, known as Will "The Thrill." He has not only kept everyone on the team entertained, but has also shown incredible play on court this year. A group of unique characters and diverse personalities has come together to be a cohesive, and successful team whether they are considered varsity or not.

The squash club may not have a multi-million dollar facility, a large fan base or an adequate budget, but the players still work on their skills and enjoy playing the game. They are motivated by improving their skills and having fun. The sense of competition and camaraderie is very much alive and well. They are, well, a team.

Editors' Picks

Questions of the week:	*Zamir Ahmed*	*Tom McCann*	*Ryan W. Reese*
Will women's squash, currently ranked 16th, rise or fall in the national rankings by Jan. 23?	RISE The team should have a couple of nice weekends to gain a couple of places on the national scene.	FALL The women will start slowly after a long winter break, slipping down the rankings a couple of pegs.	RISE Caitlin Flint '06 and the crew won't disappoint.
Will Mike Walsh '08 continue to lead the NESCAC in field goal percentage?	YES He's shooting over 60 percent and should keep up the his hot hand against NESCAC opponents.	YES Big Mike'll keep pouring them on this week too. Just give him the ball and let him take care of business.	NO With the NESCAC season heating up...not likely.
Will the New England Patriots win in the next two rounds of the playoffs to make it to the Super Bowl?	NO This year will be the year that the "dynasty" falls. All teams run into a rough patch. They're due for one.	YES I know, I know, Peyton and his Colts. Is anyone really goig to doubt Tom Brady in the playoffs? Not me.	YES You just can't bet against Tom Brady in January.
All-Time Record:	**3 - 6 (.333)**	**8 - 1 (.888)**	**6 - 3 (.666)**

Ball 5

By Justin Golenbock

The most phenomenal trend in the NFL this season has been the increasing emergence of Clinton Portis as my favorite human being. While re-watching the tape of his newest pre-game alter ego, "Coach Janky-Spanky," I realized that there was something startingly familiar with the name he chose: it was coined at my summer camp by six year-old Maggie Hirschwitz, who applied it towards assistant director Niall Sullivan '06 (ask him who his director is). Coincidence or no, what has been refreshing about Clinton Portis and his eccentric and esoteric "coterie" of characters (including his "Southeast Jerome" vampire get-up and some weird fashion blend of a Prince wig and Star Trek visors) is how child-like his costumes have been and how little influenced his costume performances (which have included props like capes, oversized plastic sunglasses, and a balloon headset) have been by the frustrated and bemused reporters assigned to pull quotes from him.

Maybe our own *Campus* Goodwoman is spot-on when she says campers are burning trees to play soccer or whatever, but in my humble opinion, kids like Maggie represent the innocent side of sport, and Portis's quirkiness taps into that. Plus I'd never get paid for anything without summer camp. But...panning back to topic...what Portis really needs, besides the Super Bowl ring he'll never get, is his own reality TV show. I mean, come on, would ESPN really need more of a premise than following Portis around with a camera? This is the same network, after all, that's reportedly negotiating with mouthy Bengals receiver Chad Johnson to create a show where Johnson travels through all 50 states challenging everyone and anyone to try and stop him "Take it to the House" (reportedly the name of the show).

Now admittedly I'd watch Johnson's show, because how awesome will his face look when Ned from Sales taps his latent potential for 30 golden seconds, but do sports fans need any more boring "Behind the Scenes" shows airing speeches by dominant players and inspirational head coaches (who sound a lot like inspirational camp coaches)? No. They can watch Brady and Belichek every Sunday. What they really need is someone interesting and fresh who does things for no absolutely no reason: Clinton Portis.

So when this show materializes, thank me, because I won't be getting a cent of the royalties. I mean, come on, I'm an Ideas man. The Associated Press even refused my request as an objective journalist for a Hall of Fame ballot [to get Jim Rice in], so clearly ever since the Eagles read *Ball 5* and immediately resigned TO I've been losing influence. I mean, at least put him on the sidelines if the Redskins lose...can you imagine Joe Buck or John Madden responding to Coach Janky-Spanky's analysis of Tony Dungy's 46 zone blitz? Comedy gold, that's all I'm saying.

Panthers ice holiday competition

Big wins over non-conference foes help ring in the new year

File Photo/Albert Bitici

The men's hockey team remained undefeated after taking home the trophy at the Middlebury Holiday Classic.

By Steve Beslow
Staff Writer

It has been an eventful few weeks for the men's hockey team, even with the holiday season. After a tough-luck tie against Plattsburgh on Dec. 9, Middlebury headed into Winter Break in need of some rest and recuperation. Judging by their recent play, it would seem that the Panthers got all the rest they needed and more.

Middlebury's first challenge after the break came at the annual Middlebury Holiday Classic Tournament. Although the Classic marked the return of the Panther's explosive offense, the shining star of the tournament was freshman netminder Doug Raeder. Named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, Raeder was phenomenal, making 27 saves in a 6-1 victory over Babson and 20 more in the finals against Amherst, which Middlebury took home 4-1. Raeder's efforts did not go unnoticed around the league, and his outstanding tourney earned him NESCAC Player of the Week honors.

With their home-ice dominance reestablished, Middlebury men's hockey team went back on the road. In this case, however, "the road" was not all that unfamiliar. In a rare opportunity, Middlebury played Skidmore at the Herb Brooks Arena in Lake Placid, N.Y. Home of the United States' 1980 Olympic shocker over Russia, Lake Placid was a fitting site for a game featuring two pairs of old acquaintances.

When head coach Bill Beaney and the rest of the Panthers looked to the opposing bench, they saw one of their own looking back: Neil Sinclair, Skidmore's new coach, has more than his share of ties to the Middlebury community. After graduating from Middlebury in 1993 (where he was a first-team All-American in his senior season), Sinclair went on to coach the Middlebury Union High School's boys' team, leading them to a Vermont State Championship in 1996. Sinclair then rejoined the Panthers as assistant coach in 1999, even taking over as interim head coach during Coach Beaney's sabbatical in 2002-2003.

Needless to say, Sinclair is familiar with the way that the Panthers do business, and Friday night's game was business as usual. Middlebury jumped out to an early lead and never looked back in an 8-2 victory, burying the Thoroughbreds under 49 shots. Goals from Yev Saidachev '07, Mickey Gilchrist '08, Darwin Hunt '07, Scott Bartlett '08, Jeff Smith '06, Rob MacIntyre '08 and two tallies from Jed McDonald '08 overwhelmed two Skidmore goalies, while Raeder, Ross Cherry '08, and Yen-I Chen '06 all saw time in the Middlebury net, the latter two not allowing a goal in 30 minutes of play.

While they did not factor into the scoring, there were two players for whom the game held special significance. For the first (but not necessarily last) time, first-year Jamie McKenna met up with older brother Taylor, a junior at Skidmore. Besides a reunion, the game was also a homecoming for the McKennas who grew up right in Lake Placid.

The Panthers finished up their road trip close to home, taking on neighboring Castleton State. Just as in the previous games, Middlebury scored early and often. First period goals by Tom Maldonado '08 and John Sales '07 were more than enough to take down the Spartans, who only managed a late third-period goal against Ross Cherry, who made 18 saves for the win. A pair of goals from Eric LaFreniere '07 and tallies from Mason Graddock '09 and McKenna iced the 6-1 Middlebury win.

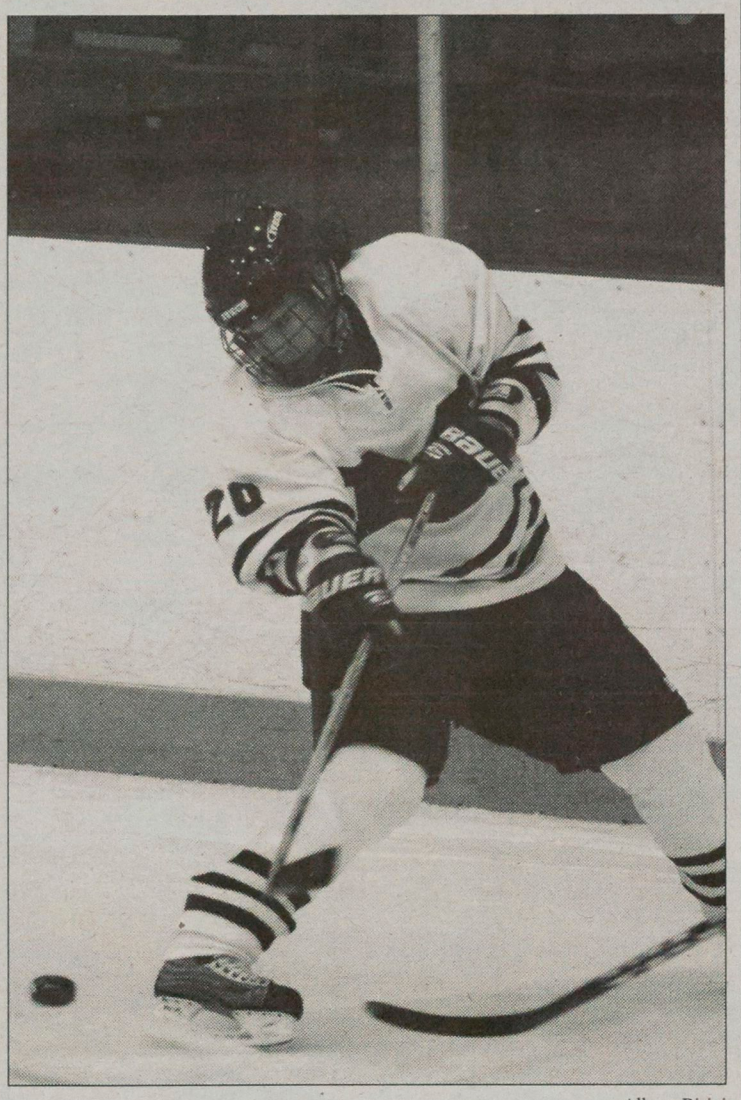
This week is the most important of the season so far for the men's hockey team. After an away game at Williams on Tuesday, the Panthers come home to face other perennial rivals Colby and Bowdoin on Friday night and Saturday afternoon. A good showing in these crucial match-ups can cement yet another successful season.

By the Numbers

By Jeff Patterson, Staff Writer

2	Number of buses, rather than the usual one, needed to accomodate the large number of skiers this J-Term
110	Student passes sold at the Rikert Ski Touring Center as of Monday
712	Student passes sold at the Snow Bowl as of Monday
$125	Price of each student's season pass to the Snow Bowl
$6.25	Cost breakdwon if you ski 20 times with your season pass
Priceless	Hitting the slopes exactly 27 minutes after your J-Term class

Still Number One



Albert Bitici

Facing off against stiff competition, Gloria Velez '06 and the women's hockey team won three times since Winter Break to remain undefeated.

INSIDE THE LOCKER ROOM

Anna Furney steps off the slopes to talk to us

The Campus: ***How long have you been skiing?***

Anna Furney: I've been skiing since I was two and I grew up skiing at cochran ski area in vermont. I started racing when I was 6 and then I moved over and competed on the club team at Stowe. I went to the Winter Academy in Vermont for high school and raced with them until I came to college at Middlebury.

Campus: ***What would you say your role on the team is?***

AF: [She laughs.] Moral support...no not that. We're a really deep team and we've got great athletes. I think that the role of a team member in any sport is to push one another to do their best.

Campus: ***What event would you say is your specialty?***

AF: Skiing? [She laughs.] I'd say GS (giant slalom) right now. I've always gone back and forth between GS and slalom.

Campus: ***How many hours a day are you at the mountain on any given day during the season?***

AF: Well, most days we get in the van around 7:15 and are up at the mountain and skiing before 8:00. We don't usually get back until around 1:00 to get to our classes in the afternoon. On top of that, we lift three times a week and I usually run a few times a week as well.

Campus: ***What's the coolest place you've ever skied?***

AF: I love skiing in Hintertux, Austria, or probably Zermatt, Switzerland. Zermatt's pretty cool because you can ski down into Italy for lunch or something. It's weird because as an alpine athlete, you find yourself training in really affluent European cities. For that reason, training in Chile was great. It was a really different setting and the way of life was so much different than what you're used to seeing around a ski resort. But, I'd probably still go with Hintertux.

Campus: ***What kind of equipment are you currently using?***

AF: I'm sponsored by Dynastar and they hold control over the boot company Lange and the binding company Look. So, you usually say that I see ski Dynastar/Lange/Look.

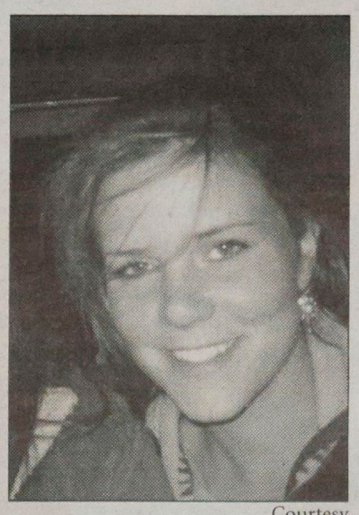
Campus: ***Do you have any pre-run superstitions?***

AF: I'm thinking here. Actually, I don't really think that I have any. Maybe we'll come back to that.

Campus: ***What song goes through your head the most when your skiing?***

AF: When I was younger, my Dad used to drive us to ski races and it was always a big family thing. Our theme song was Sheryl Crow's "All I Want to Do." It was always the last song we listened to on the access roads on the way up to the mountains.

Courtesy



Courtesy

Campus: ***So, have you ever had frostbite? If so, where?***

AF: My two big toes are black right now as a matter of fact. I'll send you a picture of them if you want. There have been times when I've skied in thirty-below weather and had to duct tape my goggles on from my nose to my chin. Even after doing this, it seems like all the girls were coming down the run with black streaks on their faces.

Campus: ***If you were trapped in the backcountry with anyone on the ski team, who would you pick?***

AF: I think that if you're caught in the back country and you were a good skier you wouldn't really have to worry about surviving. But...I don't have a really a great sense of direction so I'd probably get lost. I'd probably choose Scotty Coriell. He's pretty funny. [She pauses.] Yeah...he's such a joker. Good entertainment.

Campus: ***How do you feel about G.S. suits?***

AF: Oh...they are sexy...totally sexy. Very few people have the opportunity to wear full-body spandex without being considered insane. We get to do it everyday. Dark colors are definitely preferable as well. What else... Yeah...GS suits are great.

Campus: ***What's your favorite way to pass the time on the chairlift?***

AF: I love grape Bubblicious and I chew it all the time. We have big time bubble blowing competitions.

Campus: ***Has anyone ever triple-dog-dared you to stick your tongue to the chairlift?***

AF: Heavens no...we're not that stupid.

Campus: ***So, back to the pre-race rituals, what about them?***

AF: I've been trying to think about it. I guess I just don't have any.

Campus: ***They're saying that this U.S. Ski Team is one of the best ever. Are you excited to see how they do in Torino?***

AF: I think that it's going to be a great Olympics and they're always fun to watch. The U.S. Team has high expectations this year and I think that they'll do pretty well. We'll definitely take home a respectable number of medals, but its always hard to compete with the European countries.

Campus: ***What do you think about the debacle that came of Bode Miller's interview on "60 Minutes?"***

AF: Everyone in the skiing community has known that Bode has skied drunk quite a bit. He's always been a kind of a rebel and has caused problems with the U.S. team in the past. He usually just travels by himself in his own RV and doesnt really associate with the team that much anyway. This huge press deal is pretty intense, but I guess that it had to come out some time. It's unfortunate that all this had to blow up right before the Olympics. Still...you can't argue the fact that he's an incredible skier.

— Ryan Reese, Sports Editor

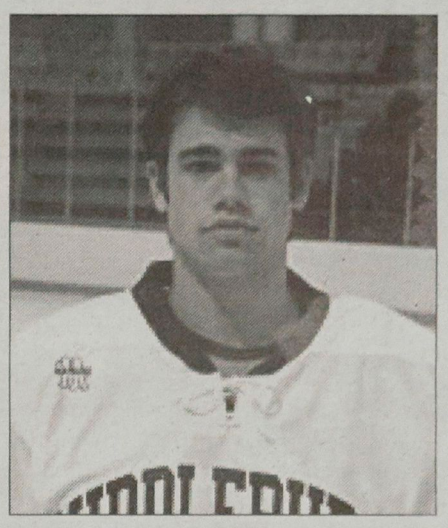
PANTHER SCOREBOARD

Date	Sport	Vs.	Result	Comments
Jan. 3	W Hockey	St. Anselm	6-0	Karen Levin '08 notched two goals and three assists in the win.
Jan. 6	W Hockey	Bowdoin	4-2	First time the Senior class has defeated Bowdoin in Kenyon Arena.
Jan. 7	W Hockey	Colby	7-1	Panthers score four goals in third period to pull away.
Jan. 7	M Swim/Dive	Colby	162-115	Robert Collier '07 and Tim Lux '07 won two events apiece.
Jan. 8	M Swim/Dive	Bates	146-108	Tristram Arscott '06 won all four of his diving events in Maine.
Jan. 8	Track & Field	Dartmouth Relays	Men - 14th Women - 15th	Panthers get solid marks as indoor track season gets started.

SPORTSBRIEFS

BY ZAMIR AHMED, SPORTS EDITOR

Raeder earns POTW honors



Athletic Communications

The Middlebury men's hockey team's first-year goaltender Doug Raeder was named NESCAC Player of the Week for men's hockey for his work during the week of Dec. 26 to Jan. 2. Raeder guided the Panthers to two wins in the Middlebury College Holiday Classic as the team took home the trophy and remained undefeated on the year.

In the opening round game of the tournament on Dec. 31, Raeder stopped 27 of 28 shots against Babson College as the Panthers cruised to a 6-1 victory. On Jan. 1, the Panthers began the new year with a 4-1 win over Amherst College in the finals as Raeder made 20 stops on the day to earn tournament MVP honors.

Raeder was not the only star for the Panthers at the Holiday Classic. Defenseman Brett Shirreffs '07 and forward Scott Bartlett '08 were both named to the tournament All-Conference Team for their impressive offensive efforts. Shirreffs broke a 1-1 tie in the finals against Amherst with a power-play goal to give Middlebury a lead it would not relinquish and keyed a defense that gave up only two goals during the tournament. For the year, he has two goals and four assists in 11 games. Bartlett scored a goal in each of the Panthers' games to earn tournament honors. He currently has three goals and five assists on the season.

On the year, Raeder owns a 5-0-1 record and sits in second in the NESCAC with a 1.83 goals-against-average, behind only teammate Ross Cherry '08. Raeder is also fourth in the league with a save percentage of .921. The Panthers currently sit atop the NESCAC with a 7-0 league record and a 11-0-1 record overall. The team will be challenged to stay atop the standings this weekend when it takes on Colby on Jan. 13 and Bowdoin on Jan. 14 at Kenyon Arena.

The future of Midd sports

On Jan.4, the Middlebury College Planning Steering Committee and the President's Staff released a draft of 82 recommendations they plan to make to the College at the end of the spring semester entitled "Knowledge Without Boundaries: The Middlebury College Strategic Plan." The draft lays out proposals for the development of the College in the near future, focusing on the human dimension of the community. While focusing mainly on the academic and student life, the draft does put forth two suggestions for the development of Middlebury's intercollegiate athletic department.

The first recommendation from the committee proposes that the College continue to lead the development of a strong relationship between athletics and academic study. The draft recommends the continuation of collaborations between the NESCAC colleges that examine the interplay between athletics and academics. These collaborations have led to recommendations to NESCAC presidents and have resulted in changes in athletic policy at a number of colleges and universities. These collaborations are part of the College's principles that athletes should be at the same academic level as their peers and should have every chance to participate in other areas of college life.

The second recommendation in the draft plan calls for an increased interaction between coaches and other faculty members to create a dialogue about the balance of athletics and academics within the College community. Currently, the College has in place the Faculty Affiliate Program that recruits faculty members to volunteer to spend time with athletic teams. The program is designed to foster communication between students and staff about the relationship between athletics and academics, yet no such program exists that deals with communication between coaches and the rest of the College staff. The draft proposes that three coaches and three faculty members meet once a semester to open a dialogue concerning issues such as recruiting, scheduling of practices and athletic discipline. The goal of these meetings would be to create a model for the ideal student-athlete at Middlebury.

The recommendations made by the committee would help Middlebury remain one of the national leaders in the development of the scholar-athlete as an important member of the college community. Middlebury has already made important strides in dealing with the relationship between athletics and academics and the plan set forth by the Planning Committee, when finalized, would continue this process.

They said it...

"I hope it snows before broomball starts because otherwise we're just playing Quidditch."

— Owais Gilani '08

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | TEAM LOOKS SOLID AS THE NESCAC SEASON LOOMS | 21

WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING | WINS KEEP ON COMING AS SEASON ROLLS ON | 20

GAMES TO WATCH

SWIMMING & DIVING
VS. HAMILTON
JAN. 14 | 2:00 P.M.

MEN'S BASKETBALL
VS. WESLEYAN
JAN. 14 | 2:00 P.M.

campus sports

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2006

Panthers score big wins, resume winning ways

Consecutive road, home victories reverse fortunes for men's basketball

By Jeff Klein
Staff Writer

For a few games, Middlebury basketball's unbelievable start to the season seemed like ancient history. Now, the tide has turned once again.

After an impressive 64-48 road win at Skidmore, men's basketball defeated University of New England 61-50 at home on Sunday to stage back-to-back wins after losing three straight. The three-game losing streak remains the only setback the team has encountered in an otherwise perfect season.

During the losing streak, which included losses to Hamilton, Plymouth State and Norwich, the team sorely lacked the effective formula of dead-eye shooting and smothering defense that allowed them to roar to an outstanding 7-0 record. Such a feat has been achieved by only one other Middlebury men's basketball team — the inaugural 1917-1918 squad finished the season at 7-0.

For one, Middlebury often looked stagnant on offense during their three defeats. Even when they did get decent ball movement, shots simply were not falling. This was partly due to the team's over-reliance on the three-point shot. While they were winning, many of those shots found the bottom of the net, but too much dependence on the three-ball always proves a dangerous strategy. Without the long ball, the team struggled mightily to find another offensive approach that worked.

"Offensively, we simply weren't getting efficiency with our possessions," said Guard/Forward Ben Ehrlich '09. "We started missing shots and turning the ball over a lot."

Another negative trend during the string of defeats was that the team repeatedly mired itself into insurmountable holes right from the game's outset. Even when they chipped away at their opponent's lead, the deficits proved too overwhelming to overcome. Against undefeated Hamilton, the Panthers trailed 27-14 after the first 12 minutes. Every time Middlebury made a run, Hamilton had ample breathing room to counter it, and the Panthers never got closer than six in the second half. At Plymouth State, Middlebury immediately trailed 19-9 and never actually led in the game. Against Norwich, Middlebury allowed the Cadets to break an 8-8 tie with a 12-0 run in the first half, and the Panthers never got closer than six thereafter.

Still, it was not as if the team abandoned its solid work ethic or lost its confidence during the losing streak. "The intensity and the hard work were still there," asserted Ehrlich. Maintaining such intensity and resolve even when things are not going well can define the success of a team. For Middlebury, it was the essential component in stopping the losing streak with two strong victories. "Nobody likes to lose," Ehrlich explained. "But when we were losing it wasn't as if we lost confidence in our abilities. We know how good we can be, and that was part of the frustration when we weren't playing up to our capability."

Having successfully overcome their first major test of the season, the Panthers understand that they can handle adversity with poise and character. With the losing streak firmly in the past, and with two solid wins to build on, men's basketball can look forward to the rest of the season with confidence as they set their sights on the NESCAC tournament which begins Feb. 18.

File Photo/Albert Bitici

Rebounding from a frustrating drought, the Panthers have now won three in a row following a three-game losing streak going into NESCAC play.

Men's squash still searching for varsity status

By James Kerrigan
Staff Writer

Middlebury's squash club may not be an official varsity sport, but it certainly does not lack talent and ability.

Squash club members practice and play in five courts inside the Bubble, the sort of ugly duckling of the renovated athletic facilities. They have no jerseys or Web site with updated match scores. They sleep six in a room on road trips. They have no official recruiting process. Yet, despite all these setbacks, the club has steadily climbed up the national squash ladder, and now find themselves on par with many of the top schools in the country.

On middlebury.edu, the squash club simply states: "This club promotes the playing of squash. Everyone is welcome, including people who have never played before." And, although the squash club advertises a laidback environment, the play between the walls is fiery and passionate.

Participation is higher than ever. About 25 students are members of the squash club, and 12 of those are a part of the group that competes against other schools. Senior co-captain Jeff Wieland explains that, "While the men's squash team is still in its infancy, we are beginning to build a stronger team." This portion of the club has played in six matches this year, winning four and losing two and are currently ranked 25th in the nation.

Each match consists of nine individual contests. Players from each team are ranked one through nine. Number one plays the opposing team's number one, number two plays number two, etc. Each of these contests is the best of five games. Middlebury suffered a 7-2 loss to Tufts and a 4-3 loss to St. Lawrence, who is ranked in the top 20 in the country. On the other hand, they earned shutout wins against Colgate and Northeastern and beat MIT and Wesleyan both by the score of 7-2. Gordon McMorris '08 has played in all six matches in the number two slot and come out victorious in each.

But individual accomplishments pale in comparison to the club's goal of achieving varsity status. Middlebury is the only NESCAC college without a varsity squash team. Trinity, the top-ranked team in the country, has been referred to by Jack Lysohir '08 as "the evil empire of the squash world." And for every high profile, successful team, there is a team that lacks the financial ability to compete at the same level; case in point — Middlebury. Furthermore, Middlebury has a women's varsity squash team. For these reasons, rumors float and confusion remains. Lysohir speculates that it is some sort of "Title IX conspiracy." Additionally, "Middlebury's identity is in question without a men's varsity squash team."

Wieland '06 is also unsure about why the team has remained a club sport only: "I don't really understand the politics behind becoming a varsity sport. We have sent letters to the athletic administration requesting varsity status and have tried to prove our commitment to the sport through our performance on the court."

Despite these political defeats so to speak, co-captain Alex Nadas '06 is optimistic that the next couple years will bring even more improvement: "I foresee us becoming varsity within the next few years. Once that happens, we will be able

See Squash, page 21

Courtesy/Will Carroll

The men's squash team has enjoyed success in the past few years competing against varsity teams in the region.